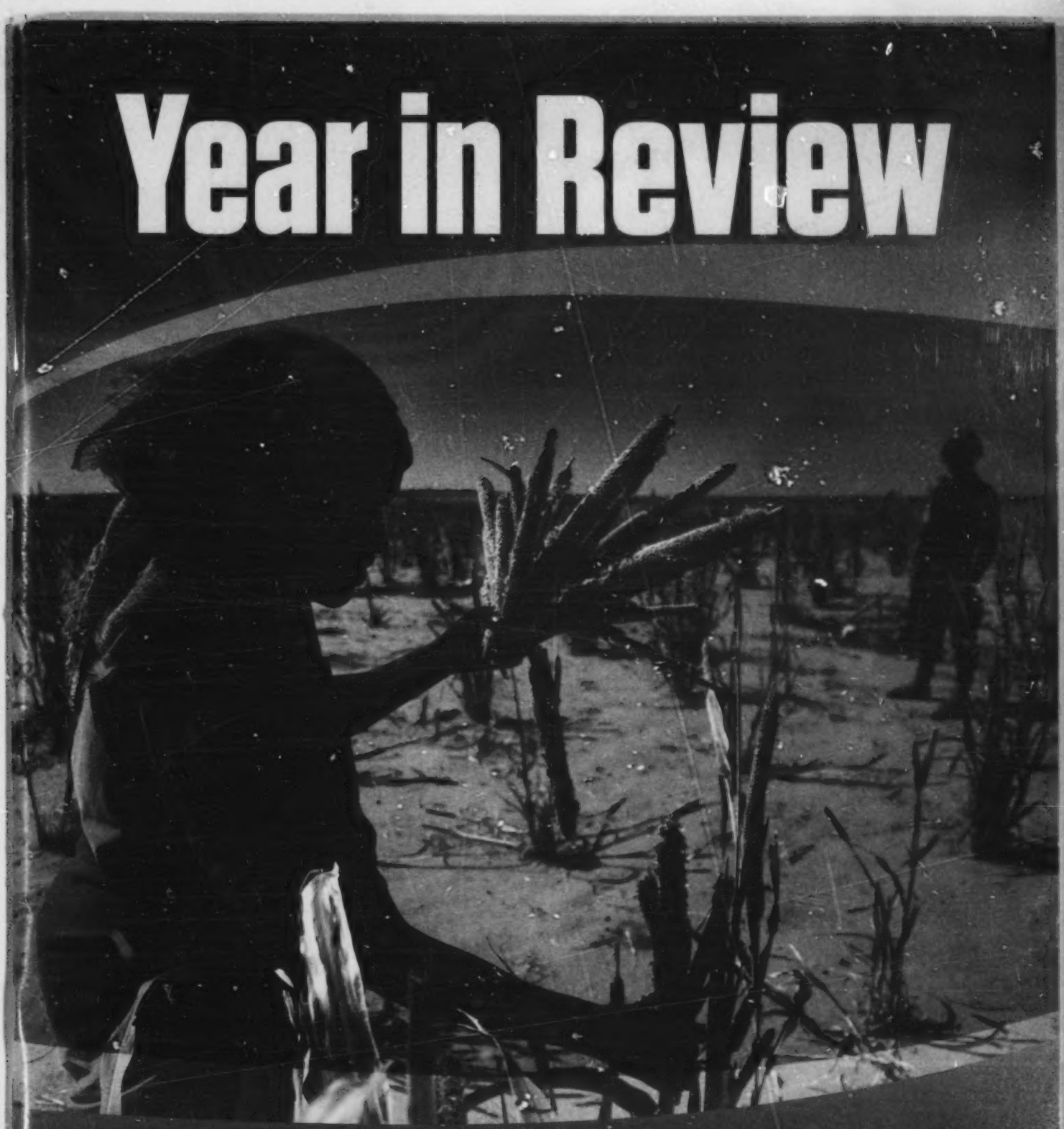
Year in Review



United Nations Peace Operations 2011

The 2011 UN Peace Operations Year in Review pays tribute to those staff who lost their lives serving the United Nations

Our best tribute to them... is to continue the life-saving and life-enhancing work for which they gave their lives.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
21 November 2011
Memorial service at UN Headquarters in New York

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Force Commander Major-General Alberto Asarta Cuevas salutes as Deputy Secretary-General Asha Rose Migiro's helicopter departs after her visit to UNIFIL. Southern Lebanon, 24 November 2011. (UN Photo/Pasqual Gorriz)

Cover photo: A woman collects millet near the Zam Zam IDP Camp under the protection of UN Jordanian peacekeepers. El Fasher, North Darfur, Sudan. (UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran)

Remarkable but challenging year

In 2011, over two dozen United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions worked to provide security and stability, facilitate political processes, protect civilians, help refugees return, support elections, demobilize and reintegrate former combatants, and promote human rights and the rule of law.

The UN was called upon to take on tasks as varied as providing logistical support to the January referendum in Sudan and consequentially closing the UN Mission there; setting up and deploying new missions in South Sudan, Abyei and Libya; continuing to contribute to the reduction in the level of insecurity in Darfur; supporting presidential and legislative elections in countries such as Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire and helping them to consolidate the gains achieved so far; proceeding with its peacekeeping and peacemaking work in the Middle East and Cyprus; and preparing to wind down the mission in Timor-Leste and downsize missions, such as Haiti. Further, as the political actors in Somalia agreed on a roadmap for completing the transitional period, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon paid a surprise visit to Mogadishu to bolster the peace process and urge the parties to move the roadmap forward.

But 2011 was far from smooth sailing. The United Nations had to deal with the violent aftermath of the contested presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire earlier in the year. The situation in the newly independent South Sudan continued to be a matter of grave concern because of inter-tribal clashes, not to mention the lack of effective political and governance institutions, and there were questions raised about the credibility of the elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) towards the end of the year. Some missions continued to face "shortages of critical capacities", including helicopters. Having this capac-

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and General Assembly President Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser (centre) visiting the facilities shared by the UN and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in Somali capital, Mogadishu. 9 December 2011. (UN Photo/Mark Garten)

UNAMID organizes disarmament, demobilization and reintegration outreach activities. North Darfur, Sudan, 25 July 2011. (UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran)

ity was of utmost importance in protecting civilians and ensuring the safety and security of UN personnel, a senior UN official told Member States at a meeting in October 2011.

In December, the Secretary-General issued his second progress report on the New Horizon initiative launched in July 2009. This process aims at assessing the major policy and strategy dilemmas facing UN peacekeeping today and over the coming years. It also seeks to reinvigorate the ongoing dialogue with Member States and other stakeholders on possible solutions to better calibrate UN peacekeeping to meet current and future requirements.

Also in 2011, the Secretary-General released a major report on preventive diplomacy. It highlighted the recent strides made using preventive diplomacy and mediation as a cost-effective tool in dealing with crisis and set out the agenda for the next five years. As Secretary-General Ban noted, "Our new emphasis on preventive diplomacy and mediation has produced encouraging results — in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Cyprus and Nepal".

Once again in 2011, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse against a few peacekeepers underscored the challenge in implementing the UN's zero tolerance policy. As Under-Secretary-General for Field Support Susana Malcorra noted, "Nowhere is our commitment to our core values more visibly demonstrated, and tested, than in the exercise of the fundamental duty of care that all peacekeeping personnel (uniformed and civilian) owe to the local population that they serve and protect [...] This exemplary record continues to be clouded by serious acts of misconduct by a few individuals including inexcusable acts of sexual exploitation and abuse that continue at an unacceptable rate". While the UN Secretariat followed the cases where civilian staff were involved, it reached out to troop-contributing countries to ensure that allegations were addressed promptly by their respective authorities.

Peacekeeping is a dangerous undertaking. Tragically, 113 UN staff, both uniformed and civilian, lost their lives in 2011 while serving the United Nations in the field. They were serving in difficult and treacherous parts of the world, as far apart as Afghanistan and Côte d'Ivoire, DRC and Haiti, Lebanon and Sudan, Cyprus and Liberia. In the words of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: "Our best tribute to them...is to continue the life-saving and life-enhancing work for which they gave their lives".

Standing ready to face any situation

Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General Department of Peacekeeping Operations

Hervé Ladsous has headed Peacekeeping Operations since 3 October 2011. With extensive diplomatic experience, he is recognized by his peers in all parts of the world for his capacity to build consensus. Mr. Ladsous is known for his acute political judgement, strong crisis-management skills and a profound understanding of the challenges facing the United Nations.

Heading United Nations peacekeeping for nearly three months, you've visited Sudan, South Sudan and Afghanistan. What are your early impressions of UN peacekeeping?

I see peacekeeping within a continuum at the United Nations from when I served here in a national capacity in the mid-1990s. I also appreciate its incredible growth, both in size and in the varied multi-dimensionality of the missions. Of course, this presents even greater challenges. I am not surprised, but am impressed by the devotion of the people serving in the missions and in Headquarters. Their devotion to United Nations ideals, their desire to make a difference and their commitment to achieve the Security Council and Secretary-General's goals is heart-warming.

As 2011 draws to a close, UN peacekeeping has faced varying challenges. What would you consider to be some of 2011's major achievements?

The successful operation in Côte d'Ivoire in ensuring the November 2010 presidential election results were upheld, in spite of being trampled on by politicians, and then several difficult months where the rule of law and the principles of democracy were eventually fully implemented were both accomplishments. I take heart from the recent legislative elections, which went well, with minimal violence, and confirm that Côte d'Ivoire is back on the road to democracy.

Other elections were also challenging. Some, such as Liberia in November, went well. The Democratic Republic of the Congo at the end of November was more complicated. It is too early to pass final judgment. These are important events where the United Nations can help to implement democratic principles, providing advice or logistical support. In the case of Côte d'Ivoire, we provided certification of the process, and worked with other international community observers.

Another challenge was the referendum in Sudan, which resulted in the birth of the 193rd Member State, South Sudan. This was accompanied by UNMISS, a new mission where we are helping with state-building and development. I think it is quite remarkable.

> I am not surprised, but impressed by the devotion of the people serving in the missions and in Headquarters.

Also, as impressive was the first United Nations deployment in Abyei, the area that is contested between both Sudans. After a bout of terrible violence in May, under very difficult circumstances the mission was created and deployed with incredible speed. I was very impressed when I arrived to see what had been achieved in such a short time.

These few examples speak volumes about the quality of our engagement.

Tragically in 2011, UN peacekeepers lost their lives in the attack in Mazar-i-Sharif, in a plane crash in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, by stray bullets in Côte d'Ivoire and other accidents. Can you tell us about staff security and what peacekeeping is doing to protect its staff?

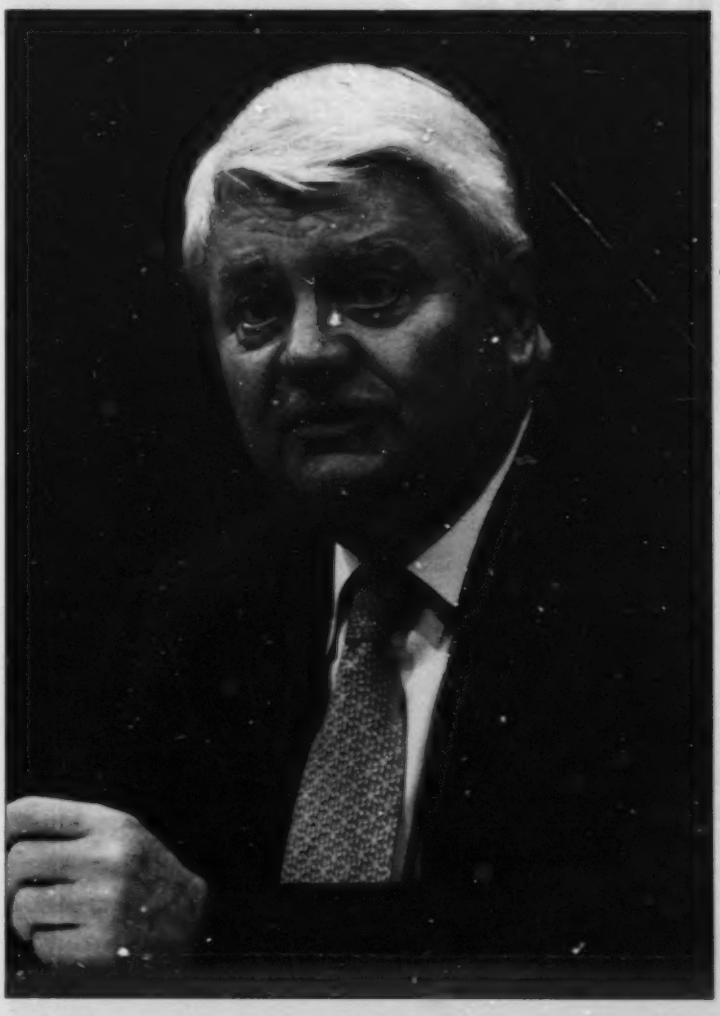
I am painfully aware that 111 UN staff serving in peace missions this year [2011] have paid with their lives. That is incredibly sad and I feel very deeply for their families and relatives.

We owe it to our blue helmets, wherever they serve, in whatever capacity, to give them the best security we can provide. I am completely aware that no security is 100 per cent perfect, but at least we must put the best chances on their side and that is something I will not be lenient on. We cannot, we must not get security on the cheap. We will do our best to make sure that they get the best equipment and use the best procedures.

You spoke before about the referendum in Sudan, the future of South Sudan, and the rapid formation of UNISFA. Together these represent a major contribution for UN peacekeeping in 2011. What do you see to be the major actions that South Sudan and Sudan need to take to ensure that there is regional stability there?

It appears that Sudan and South Sudan have decided to undergo a divorce but have left aside a number of unsettled issues. The major question is how they can live side by side as neighbours without a degree of trust and confidence between them. They have yet to solve the issue of borders and demarcation, particularly in the area of Abyei, which is deeply contested between the two. They have not decided how to share the oil revenue from the oil fields that are mainly located in the south, which entails a substantial financial loss for Khartoum. Nor have they forsaken mutual accusations of support for rebellions on the other state's territory.

This means that there have been a number of incidents. To help solve these issues, Special Envoy Haile Menkerios is supporting the work of former President Thabo Mbeki and the African High-level Implementation Panel for the two States to discuss and identify solutions to these very pregnant issues.



Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. (UN Photo/JC McIlwaine)

USG Hervé Ladsous is welcomed by residents of Shangil Tobaya village. UNAMID Joint Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari is beside him. Darfur, Sudan, 30 October 2011. (UN Photo/Olivier Chassot)

From your very first days in office, you began describing peacekeeping as a global partnership. As we look towards 2012, who do you see as key partners for UN peacekeeping?

The obvious partners are those countries sitting on the Security Council who give us our mandates, others that volunteer soldiers, policemen and civilian employees, as well as those countries that pay for the peacekeeping budget. Frequently, these groups are not the same, which will be the subject of an important debate in the first part of 2012 under the auspices of the high-level advisory group. Then the partnerships open up further. I look at the state of cooperation with the African Union for instance, because about two-thirds of our operations are in Africa. NATO, the European Union and the Organization of American States are all organizations with a stake, and some elements of responsibility in maintaining peace, stability and security. It is, therefore, logical that although the United Nations, under the Charter, retains the primary responsibility, other organizations share the charge and can contribute ideas, people and equipment. It is evident that we must do all we can to step up this partnership with them.

To close off, while you can't predict everything in terms of demands on peacekeeping, what are some of the main challenges you would signal going into 2012?

Since we never know what is going to happen tomorrow, I think we have to stand ready to face any situation, including the unexpected, as recent years have proven. There is also the anticipated. As I spoke before about our work in the Sudans, we also have to continue following the situation in Democratic Republic of the Congo. I expect to go there quite early in 2012. We have several review exercises that have already been launched, such as reviewing the tasks mandated to us in Afghanistan and the strategic review in Lebanon's UNIFIL. Of course we must keep actively supporting the various tasks under way in Haiti. In 2012, Timor Leste will celebrate its tenth anniversary of independence and UNMIT will close its operation. We must do this in a prudent way, not leaving the country to fend for itself, but retaining some international presence, not peacekeeping, but something else to help continue the various processes. There will be plenty to do, no doubt, and I look forward to an interesting year, though I guess no year has ever been uninteresting in DPKO.

Building on the Global Strategy

Susana Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General Department of Field Support

Susana Malcorra formally took up her duties overseeing United Nations field-based peace operations world-wide on 4 May 2008. Ms. Malcorra's extensive experience in both the public and private sector has fortified her with the expertise necessary to support 33 field operations comprising over 120,000 military, police and civilian personnel.

You are in charge of setting up and supporting UN peace operations around the world. Have you noticed in 2011 changes in terms of peacekeeping deployment or types of support needed?

In 2009 and 2010, there was a sense that peacekeeping may decline, but 2011 brought some interesting developments. First, the Sudan referendum led to a new country and a new peacekeeping mission. While we had to wind down and close UNMIS in Sudan, we launched UNMISS in South Sudan, bringing a set of new challenges and things to do.

Simultaneously, the Security Council established a new mission in Abyei, leaving us managing four missions in two countries: one in liquidation, two start-ups and one established mission in Darfur.

The developments in the Arab world brought another set of challenges. While some have been managed by traditional country teams, Libya added another new start-up mission that has yet to be fully configured. With the Global Service Centre in Brindisi, we have been able to support the mission based on the Global Field Support Strategy. This has given us the opportunity to test ideas that have been discussed with Member States as part of a long-term strategy.

We are also under pressure for the numerous electoral processes being undertaken throughout

Susana Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support. (UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe)

our missions. Additionally, Somalia, which we serve through and to the African Union, has become increasingly larger as the situation on the ground continues to shift.

2011 has seen a continuation of the global financial crisis. How does this affect UN peacekeeping and Member States' expectations? What is DFS doing to meet these challenges?

While 2011 brought more clarity on the global financial situation, it is my sense that we still have a lot to see. Some Member States are facing only the early stages of the crisis, and much work needs to be done still amongst Member States before it trickles down to the United Nations.

I think Member States view the United Nations and peacekeeping as more and more at the centre. Many political decisions support this, such as our engagement in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Africa, in general.

The UN is at the centre of peace and security for the international community. The peacekeeping budget discussions this past year revealed the focused demand for us to be not only effective but also efficient. In this coming budget cycle we will build on the baseline of the Global Field Support Strategy, of managing globally, and assure Member States that we deliver our mandates with the most reasonable level of resources.

What are the main achievements of the Global Field Support Strategy in 2011? What do you see as the priorities for this strategy in 2012?

GFSS was approved in June 2010. We are now one and a half year into the five-year strategy. While we cannot expect everything to have already come to fruition, there are quite a few developments to highlight, such as the regional service centre in Entebbe. The missions' ownership of this service centre has proven this is a better way to manage resources for back-office activities, including human resources, finance and budgets. Another good example of better service at a lower cost is what has been done with the regional air service.

We deliver our mandates with the most reasonable level of resources.

We have shown the notion of the 200-men camp, the basic module for the modularization pillar, and that has captured the interest of Member States. In November, we were able to present to them a five-year plan for modularization. This is another important development.

In June, Member States approved the concept of a global service centre, which is now in our budget. We are determining the functions to be transferred from New York Headquarters to centres in Brindisi and Valencia. This is part of the shifting of Headquarters from being operational to being more strategic, and moving operations closer to the missions, via the global service centre.

The Secretary-General is pursuing progress on the issue of climate change and sustainable development. What is DFS doing to improve the performance of peacekeeping operations in terms of their impact on the environment?

The carbon footprint of peacekeeping is huge and we are one of the largest polluters in the UN. One of the drivers of the GFSS is to be respectful of the environment by providing our services in a cleaner way. Modularization includes water treatment plants, a better way to manage waste, the notion of lowering fuel dependence and harnessing sunlight. We are also working on air services. While our fleet is not yet up to the required level, we are engaged with Member States and suppliers to evolve our business model within our existing resources and capacities.

Even though statistics show reductions in reported cases of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeepers, they continue. What is the UN doing to further reduce this?

Although statistics show a decline, they also reveal that the most extreme cases haven't gone down, including those involving minors. We remain concerned and sustain our engagement with Member States. As the General Assembly put the onus on them to close the loop when cases are brought to our attention, we keep pushing on

USG Susana Malcorra, is greeted by UN honour guard as she arrives at UNAMID headquarters, El Fasher, Sudan, 30 November 2011. (UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran)

that. We also press for training, pre-deployment awareness and every aspect of prevention to keep the pressure on.

One case is one case too many. It can affect the power balance between a peacekeeper, uniformed or otherwise, and the local population. It can alter the entire mission's relationship with the people it serves.

We have just conducted an internal workshop with colleagues from both DPKO and DFS, to brainstorm on how to move this agenda further. We keep this issue at the top of our priorities, knowing we have done a lot, but we still have a long way to go.

What is DFS doing to harness new technology to address the challenges of 21st century peacekeeping? For example, you have championed a project using mobile telephones to protect civilians. Can you tell us more?

While we have done much with technology, there is still space to explore new options. On the protection of civilians, we need to be able to deploy infantry battalions rapidly and to establish exactly what and where the threats are. We are working on early warning systems in eastern DRC where we have had a lot of issues with the protection of civilians. We have established a network with cellular and satellite phones whereby villagers can connect and send alerts to the right place. This allows for a rapid early reaction so that we can prevent a violation instead of reacting to one. I think there is a huge opportunity there. Protecting civilians is one side of the coin, the other side is to protect our peacekeepers, who have seen much violence. It is work in progress where, with better use of technology, we can be more effective and efficient.

Earlier in the year you began to liquidate UNMIS. UNMIT may close in 2012, following presidential and parliamentary elections. Is it as hard to draw down a mission as it is to start one?

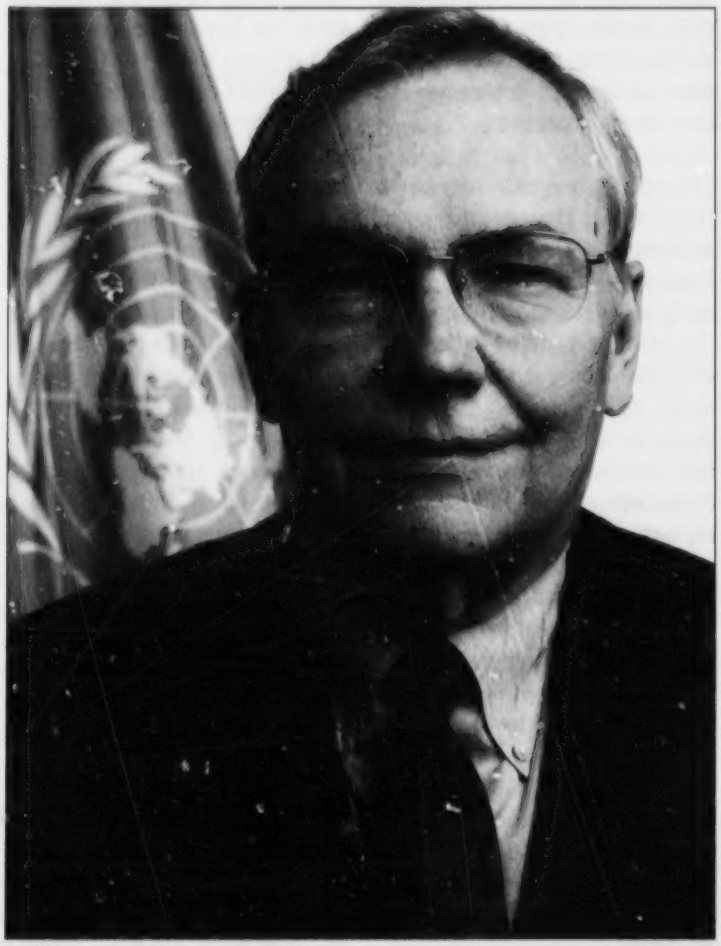
We are mentally better prepared to construct and to build, so closing, or "liquidating" a mission is tough. It is a different part of the mission cycle that creates tensions and can be difficult to manage well. More recently, we have been using people who have specialised in closing missions, as in Chad, and now Sudan. As custodians of the resources given to us by the Members States, we need to properly close books and transfer assets. Another challenge is the planning aspect. Closing a mission might be unexpected and unplanned with a lot of issues remaining open; or like in Timor-Leste where the United Nations can plan ahead for our departure and ensure we leave behind something meaningful, so we are working on capacity-building.

The Arab Awakening and the UN political response

B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General Department of Political Affairs

B. Lynn Pascoe has served as Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs throughout the first term of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, spearheading efforts on the UN chief's behalf to sharpen the use of instruments such as preventive diplomacy and mediation to respond to crises around the globe. These capabilities were sorely tested again in 2011 across a range of global hotspots, including especially the Middle East and North Africa.

In an interview with Year in Review, Mr. Pascoe described the UN's political response to the dramatic upheavals that are still playing out across the Arab world. This has ranged from the outspoken messaging of the Secretary-General to the dispatch of envoys, mediation and electoral experts to various countries requesting UN assistance, to close cooperation with regional organizations, and the deployment in Libya of the UN's newest political mission.



B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. (UN Photo/Mark Garten)

This year brought historic change to the Middle East with the Arab Spring movement spilling over from country to country, shaking or even dismantling established structures. How has the United Nations responded?

Most importantly, the Secretary-General decided from the outset of the Arab Spring that the UN should be on the side of the people and the side of mod-

ernization. The old notion that somehow the Middle East was an exception, that it was not cut out for democracy, had always been a foolish one. The UN, therefore, supported the aspirations of peaceful protesters and their calls for reform throughout the region, starting with Tunisia, followed by Egypt and then Libya. In countries like Bahrain, Yemen and Syria, the Secretary-General has repeatedly called on leaders to respect human rights and to respond peacefully to the legitimate aspirations of their people for change.

How did the United Nations react specifically to the different challenges in these countries?

The UN's response has varied according to the unique circumstances in each country. In Tunisia, for example, the UN was deeply involved in the preparations of the October elections. The Department of Political Affairs (DPA) worked with the United Nations Development Programme to deploy electoral experts to Tunis, providing first-hand assistance to the national election authorities. This was a Tunisian-led process that worked very well and led to successful parliamentary elections in October. The enthusiasm of the Tunisian people in expressing their will through the ballot box was an inspiration to the whole region, and particularly Egypt, where the UN has also provided electoral assistance.

Libya posed a more complex challenge. What would you highlight there?

First, there was an immediate need to alleviate the suffering of the refugees fleeing from the zones of combat to the Tunisian and Egyptian border. Second, the Security Council clearly expressed the need to maintain a mediation effort to see whether an agreement between the opposition and Qadhafi could be achieved. The Secretary-General appointed a high-ranking diplomat, former Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdel-Elah Al-Khatib, to lead this effort, with substantive and logistical support from DPA. At the same time, the Secretary-General tasked DPA with planning for the post-conflict situation in Libya, whether mediated or following the fall of Mr. Qadhafi. The process, led by the Special Adviser for post-conflict planning, Ian Martin, moved forward rapidly and brought together the whole UN system. As Tripoli fell and the Security Council decided in September to establish the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) – a political mission – Mr. Martin, the new mission's head, was already on the ground in Tripoli with an advance team and with a very clear idea of what kind of support the transitional authorities in Libya would request in order to best help their people.

Why the decision to establish UNSMIL as a political mission as opposed to a peacekeeping mission?

A mission has to fit the needs of the country and its people. We talked with the Libyans about whether they would need some kind of stabilization force after the conflict, but they made it very clear that they would be in charge on the security side and they have managed it quite well. Where they wanted help from the UN was with the coordination of international assistance, and with expertise on issues such as elections, governance, constitution-making, the control of arms, and on the formation of a professional police force and army. Qadhafi had basically eliminated institutions. For all of these reasons, a political mission was the logical choice.

In Syria, clashes between the security forces and protesters have already killed thousands. Will we see a similar role for the UN?

We have to be flexible and adapt our response to the needs of each particular situation.

The UN's response has varied according to the unique circumstances in each country.

On Syria, it is no secret that the Security Council has been divided, and this has limited its range of action. At the same time, the Secretary-General has spoken out repeatedly for an end to the violence and for genuine democratic reforms. He has been in constant contact with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, offering support to the League's efforts to stop the bloodshed and resolve the crisis

USG Pascoe briefs correspondents on the report "Preventive Diplomacy: Delivering Results". United Nations, New York, 12 September 2011. (UN Photo/Mark Garten)

in Syria. We have also worked in close cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and welcomed the establishment of the International Independent Commission of Inquiry, which was not allowed in the country but produced a very strong report based on interviews with refugees. The UN also worked with humanitarian actors on the ground to draft a needs assessment.

The UN has also had a significant role on Yemen. What are the challenges there?

The situation in Yemen is highly complex. Atop the multiple conflicts already present in the country, the Arab Spring added a new dimension in the form of a political crisis over strong demands from protesters and opposition forces that the long-standing President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, should step down and institute reforms. Violence surged and the humanitarian situation deteriorated. The Secretary-General made his diplomatic good offices available in support of regional efforts to resolve the crisis, deploying a Special Adviser, Jamal Benomar, supported by DPA. His diplomacy between the competing groups in Yemen helped to produce in November a political transition agreement providing for elections in early 2012 and a two-year political transition process intended to move Yemen toward greater democracy and the peaceful resolution of its conflicts. The UN will be working in the period ahead to support this process and ensure it is inclusive and respectful of human rights.

Transitions in the region are still unfolding, in some cases marred by violence and setbacks. How confident are you that the changes set in motion by the Arab Spring will be consolidated and endure?

The new order in this region may take a number of years to emerge, but I believe the old Middle East is dead and it is not coming back. Even some of the more conservative actors in the region realize they need to make changes. Governments have to prove they are actually working for the people. Where this is not the case, people are no longer afraid of the suppressive apparatus of the state. They are willing to fight for their rights. Without interfering, the challenge for the UN and the international community is to effectively support these historic transformations which have come so suddenly and represent such a fundamental break from the past.

Preventive diplomacy: A necessity, not an option

When crises break or threaten to erupt in violence, rapid diplomatic action — also known as preventive diplomacy — is one of the oldest tools available to the United Nations to prevent bloodshed or escalation. Today, this instrument is gathering renewed force at the UN, as quiet successes breed confidence in its application, recent investments in capacity take root, avenues for effective partnerships expand and Member States search for cost-effective answers to crises at a time of global economic strain.

In numerous engagements, over the past few years, UN envoys and mediators have shown the value of timely preventive diplomacy. Their efforts have helped, for example, to nurse fragile democratic transitions in Guinea and Kyrgyzstan, to encourage political agreements in Yemen, to channel confrontation into dialogue in Malawi and to bring about a peaceful referendum in Southern Sudan.

Buoyed by results such as these, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has placed preventive diplomacy high on the agenda for his second term in office. In September 2011, he issued a major report on the topic, that summarized recent advances and set out a five-year agenda for further progress by the UN and its partners.

"Preventive diplomacy today is delivering concrete results with relatively modest resources in many regions of the world, helping to save lives and to protect development gains. It is, without a doubt, one of the smartest investments we can make", the Secretary-General concluded in the report entitled *Preventive Diplomacy: Delivering Results*. The Security Council has echoed the Secretary-General's call, holding a high-level meeting on preventive diplomacy along the margins of last year's General Assembly.

SRSG for Somalia Augustine Mahiga (forefront to the right) welcomes Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to Mogadishu with USG B. Lynn Pascoe (disembarking plane) and GA President Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser (behind Mr. Pascoe). Mogadishu, Somalia, 9 December 2011. (UN Photo/Mark Garten)

Numerous factors have come together to boost the prospects for effective preventive diplomacy in today's world.

The past decade has seen changes at the policy level and on the ground. Regional organizations, such as the African Union, have updated their normative frameworks to support more proactive diplomacy to resolve political crises affecting member countries. In June 2011, the UN General Assembly adopted a consensus resolution on reinforcing mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes. These normative developments have paved the way for the creation of new preventive capacities in many parts of the world, including systems for crisis monitoring and flexible funding mechanisms for rapid reaction.

Strengthening DPA

Strengthening the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) has been a key development that anchors much of the Organization's work in this area. The GA approved budgetary increases requested by the Secretary-General to reinforce DPA's core structures at Headquarters. A Mediation Support Unit established within the department provides expertise to envoys and other mediators engaging in negotiations. The seven members of DPA's Standby Team of Mediation experts can be deployed within 72 hours to provide advice on issues such as power-sharing, resource management, constitution-making and women's participation.

"These capacities have underpinned the department's shift from a relatively desk-bound organization drafting analytical papers at Headquarters, to an increasingly action-oriented network, carrying out and supporting preventive diplomacy in the field", says B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

In 1999, DPA supervised only eight political missions; today there are more than a dozen such missions in Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East, acting as a strong platform for preventive diplomacy. Through cooperation, regional offices in Central and West Africa, as well as in Central Asia, assist Member States in preventing conflict and responding to cross-border threats such as terrorism and organized crime.

For example, Said Djinnit, head of the United Nations Office for West Africa, shuttled back and forth to Guinea more than 50 times following a 2008 military coup. Working alongside envoys of the African Union and ECOWAS, his efforts helped keep up the diplomatic pressure for a peaceful return to constitutional order. In December 2010, the country held democratic presidential elections.

Increased voluntary funding is helping DPA to respond more rapidly to crises. Such funding has been critical, for example, in enabling the rapid dispatch of envoys, mediation and electoral experts in response to major unforeseen developments such as last year's Arab Spring. Although the value of prevention has become conventional wisdom, success remains a difficult prospect. Parties may be unwilling to resolve differences peacefully. Governments and regional powers often still resist outside assistance for fear of interference in their internal affairs. Concerted international involvement may also be difficult to mobilize until major incidents of violence have taken place.

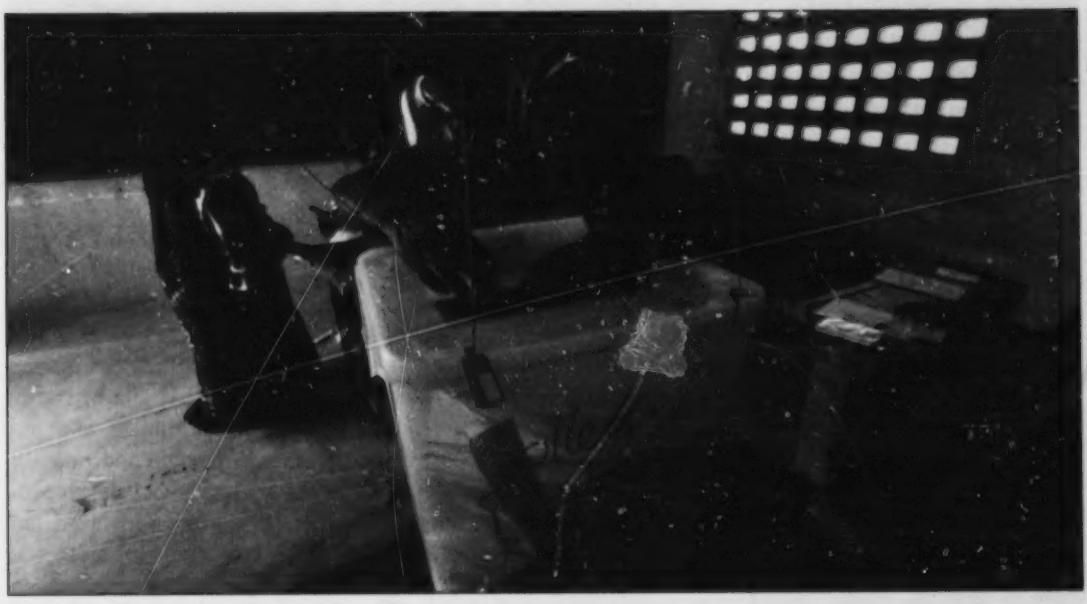
Changing the culture

As the Secretary-General outlined in his report of September 2011, preventive diplomacy has to be further strengthened over the coming years, in particular by moving to a culture of early action. Deepening partnerships with regional organizations will also allow for more rapid reaction. Diplomatic efforts must not end abruptly, but be placed on sustainable footing. Lastly, further financial commitments will be needed to ensure that mediators are trained and rapidly deployed to trouble spots.

While all of these measures should make preventive diplomacy more effective, they provide no guarantees for success. Still, as UN Secretary-General Ban underscored in his report: "Better preventive diplomacy is not an option; it is a necessity".

This article was adapted from the UN Department of Political Affairs newsletter Politically Speaking.

Electoral support: Voting for peace



The United Nations assists in Côte d'Ivoire legislative elections. Bondoukou, Côte d'Ivoire, 11 December 2011. (UN Photo/Hien Macline)

The demand for United Nations electoral assistance continued to increase in 2011. Eleven countries submitted new requests, while the Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) of the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) was active in a total of 55 countries and territories. This included work in the Middle East and North Africa region, where in 2011, people clearly expressed their desire for genuinely and credibly elected leadership.

EAD is the key support unit for the Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Political Affairs, who serves as the UN focal point for electoral assistance matters.

The provision of electoral assistance by the UN is a team effort involving a number of agencies and departments, including EAD, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Field Support, UN Women, the United Nations Office for Project Services and others. Electoral assistance is regulated by the General Assembly and is based on the principle established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that the will of the people, as expressed through periodic and genuine elections, shall be the basis of government authority, while also recognizing the principles of state sovereignty and national ownership of elections.

To ensure compliance with these principles, the UN focal point for electoral assistance activities advises the UN Secretary-General on electoral matters and ensures that assistance is carried out in an objective, impartial, neutral and independent manner.

Supporting elections

EAD works in many different contexts to provide electoral support to Member States, including when mandated by the Security Council through peacekeeping missions and special political missions. Often these are implemented in an integrated manner with UNDP. The UN can also provide electoral assistance to countries where no peace missions are present. For this to happen, the USG for Political Affairs must approve a request submitted by the country in question. The main goal of UN electoral assistance is to build sustainable peace and development through supporting Member States in holding periodic, credible and genuine

elections and establishing nationally sustainable electoral processes.

Prioritizing efforts to improve coherence, predictability and accountability, 2011 brought about important strengthening of the UN's electoral assistance work.

These efforts are built upon the clear leadership role in all matters related to electoral assistance assigned by the General Assembly to the focal point. They include the provision of UN electoral assistance in an integrated manner, a review of operational support to electoral assistance to identify and implement improvements and the development of a clear policy framework for this assistance.

Assisting Libya and Haiti

In Libya, the UN was given a clear electoral mandate within the framework of the United Nations Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), created by Security Council resolution 2009 (2011). Following the fall of the Qadhafi regime, the National Transitional Council adopted an interim covenant calling for elections in June of 2012 – the first openly competitive elections in Libya for more than 40 years. In order to support preparations and assist Libyan authorities in establishing all aspects of the institutional framework, EAD deployed electoral officers to Benghazi and Tripoli to initiate dialogue with Libyan counterparts. These were immediately followed by high-level visits and deployment of the core UNSMIL electoral team. The electoral component of UNSMIL is expected to grow to over 51 international staff in early 2012. The UN has also been requested to coordinate international electoral assistance through a mechanism called the Libya Coordinated Needs Assessment process, which aims to ensure coherence in technical advice and avoid duplication of activities.

Following the devastating 2010 earthquake, Haiti succeeded in holding successful presidential elections. On 20 March 2011, Michel Martelly won the popular vote in the second round and became the country's president. In line with its Security Council mandate, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti coordinated all international support to the electoral process, including assisting in setting up 1,500 registration centres for displaced voters, inspecting all 1,483 voting centres and identifying new locations to replace those that had been damaged or destroyed. The activities also included distributing the updated voters' list and, in coordination with the Haitian National Police, developing and implementing an integrated electoral security plan.

Libya and Haiti are only two examples of the extremely varied needs and contexts of Member State elections. Other countries provided with electoral assistance included Yemen, Tunisia, Jordan, Nepal, Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya. The assistance varied but included sending needs assessment missions, providing technical back-up and planning and deploying expert panels.

In order to strengthen the strategic framework for UN electoral assistance and provide consistency and coherence, EAD has begun preparing a series of new policy papers that aim to clarify how the UN determines what assistance to provide and how UN electoral policy is developed. Other UN agencies involved are closely consulted in preparing these papers. They will provide prescriptive guidance in order that the Organization can in all contexts truly deliver as one. The diversity of Member States and situations are reflected in targeted assistance approaches – mostly through technical support. They include providing advice to national electoral authorities, civic and voter education, promotion of the participation and representation of women and minorities, operational and logistical support, materials support, coordination of international electoral assistance and support to media or political parties. While UN electoral assistance is guided by clear principles, the design of individual electoral assistance interventions is predicated on the premise that there is no "one size fits all" model or solution.

UNMISS

The newest country on earth

The year 2011 witnessed the birth of the Republic of South Sudan. On 8 July, UN Security Council resolution 1996 authorized the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to begin the next day: South Sudan's Independence Day.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UN General Assembly President Joseph Deiss and Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for South Sudan Hilde F. Johnson attended the independence ceremony in South Sudan's national capital, Juba. Thirty Heads of State, Ministers and dignitaries from around the world, including Sudan President Omer Al-Bashir, witnessed the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, take the oath of office, sign and promulgate the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan and declare a public amnesty for all militia groups.

President Al-Bashir reaffirmed his Government's recognition of South Sudan and pledged to work closely with President Kiir to resolve outstanding issues and build a strong partnership going forward.

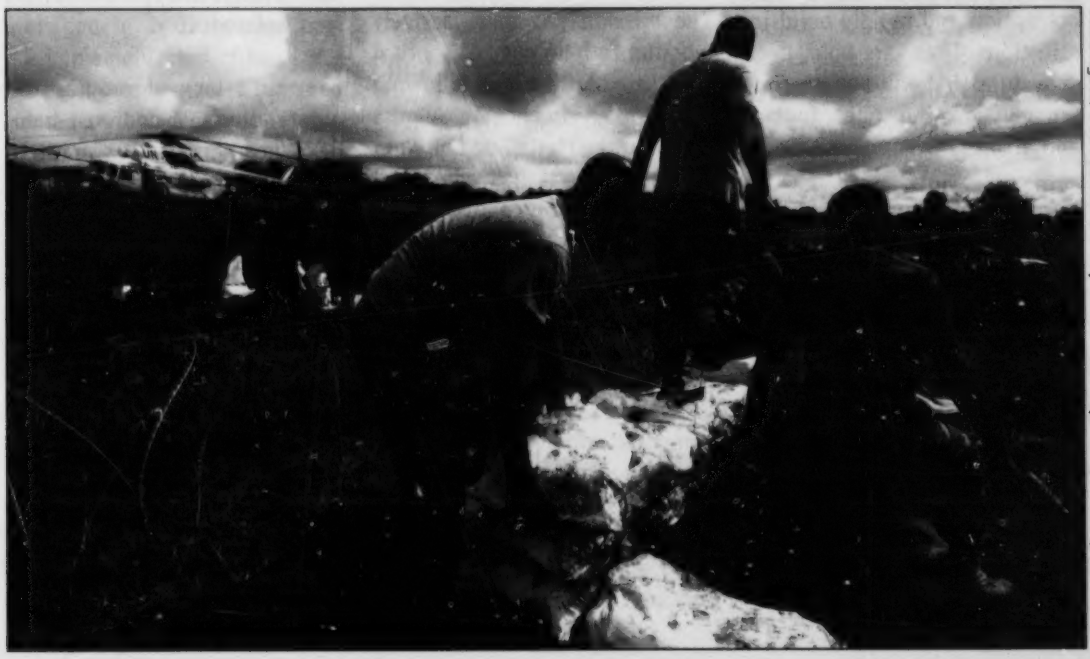
Setting priorities

While UNMISS has benefited from staff and other resources affiliated with the former UN Mission in Sudan, it still faced the initial demands of strategic and operational planning.

In her first press conference, SRSG Johnson spotlighted the strategic priorities of the authorized 7,000 military troops and 900 police officers of UNMISS. "One priority is peace consolidation, which also includes political diversity and inclusiveness", she told reporters in Juba. "The second, highlighted in the resolution, is conflict management, conflict resolution and the protection of civilians. And the third element is support to the State of South Sudan, not least in the security sector, in rule of law, justice, human rights, and abiding by international laws and standards".

Key achievements

After becoming independent, South Sudan formed a more representative Government. SRSG Johnson noted the establishment of a legislative assembly and a council of states. "Of course, there is much to be



UNMISS deploys peacekeepers to conflict-stricken Jonglei state. Likuangole, South Sudan, 1 September 2011. (UNMIS/Timothy Mckulka)

done to strengthen and develop these democratic institutions, but it is important to acknowledge that these have been put in place".

Consultations had also begun on new laws governing political parties and elections, as well as on a constitutional review.

After forming the country's first Government in September, President Salva Kiir made five anti-corruption commitments. In December, a presidential decree promulgated that public officials declare their assets and not engage in private business while in office.

As an important step towards improving governance, UNMISS also welcomed South Sudan's obligation to join the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

SRSG Johnson responded that "the Government has underlined its strong commitment to fight corruption and rapidly build institutions. These are bold, decisive steps that will put the Government on the right footing and attract investors".

Hundreds of thousands of South Sudanese have been returning to the new country with the support of UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations. A major achievement, the Government has managed to integrate important renegade militias into its national army, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Security issues

In spite of significant progress made in establishing state institutions and integrating militias into the national army, protecting civilians and brokering peaceful coexistence among feuding tribes has been a major challenge.

Security in Jonglei state has been particularly troublesome for the fledgling Government. As its primary responsibility in protecting civilians, UNMISS has urged the Government to encourage communities involved in the cycle of inter-community violence in that state to respect their earlier commitments and resolve their differences through dialogue. "The mass killings must stop and the people in the area need to join together in putting an end to this merciless and lethal cycle of violence once and for all", said SRSG Johnson.

The mission has been actively working to help combat reprisal attacks, particularly following the bloody violence in August between the Murle and Lou Nuer communities. It has continued to deploy resources, boosting efforts to prevent and mitigate conflict between the communities and in December, sent patrols to the Jalleh area of Jonglei after a new bout of violence broke out.

UNMISS, together with the Government of South Sudan, has coordinated the deployment of additional forces to areas where tensions remain high and has also employed a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach to facilitate a reconciliation process.

"This is also the time for all South Sudanese to put peace in their new and independent country above all other concerns and interests", said SRSG Johnson.

The approach endorses the inclusive peace process led by the Sudan Council of Churches in addition to deploying the SPLA in Jonglei with weighty instructions to protect civilians.

Peace agreement

For peace and stability to take root between Sudan and South Sudan, it is crucial that outstanding issues of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which paved the way for the new State's independence, be resolved amicably.

Continued lack of progress on outstanding CPA and post-independence negotiations, particularly on financial arrangements, Abyei and border demarcation, has contributed to a stalemate in North-South relations. In the light of intensified conflicts in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states, tensions have exacerbated with Khartoum allegations that SPLM-North received support from South Sudan, which the Government of South Sudan denied.

UNOCI

Conquering the odds

UNOCI peacekeepers on patrol in the capital after the surrender of ex-President Gbagbo. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 14 April 2011. (UN Photo/Basile Zoma)

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) was established in 2004 to facilitate the implementation of the 2003 peace agreement ending the Ivorian civil war.

In 2011, Côte d'Ivoire continued to face significant security, humanitarian and political hurdles following the violent crisis that ensued after the 2010 presidential run-off election in November. Challenges included the stabilization of the security situation, promoting reconciliation and applying justice in an even-handed manner, protecting human rights, building strong independent institutions. and addressing cross-border challenges and the root causes of the conflict.

Criminal charges

Strides were made in the West African nation after ex-President Laurent Gbagbo was captured on 11 April, four months after refusing to acknowledge defeat in a UN-certified presidential poll, which was recognized by the international community. Transferred to the International Criminal Court on 29 November, he faces charges of crimes against humanity.

One year earlier, the second round of presidential elections galvanized hopes to end the crisis that had rocked Côte d'Ivoire for a decade. However, after the poll, a stalemate accompanied by violence paralyzed the country for months. While the international community recognized Alassane Dramane Ouattara as the duly elected president, former President Gbagbo mobilized youth and armed forces against perceived opponents, including the United Nations.

On 30 March, the Security Council passed resolution 1975, repeating its calls for Gbagbo to step down and urging an immediate end to the violence against the civilian population. After pro-Gbagbo forces fired heavy weapons in Abidjan, kill-

ing many civilians, the Council reaffirmed UNOCI's mandate to protect civilians, including preventing the use of heavy weapons against them.

On 6 May, Ouattara took the oath of office at the presidential palace in Abidjan, one day after the Constitutional Council ratified the election results, reversing its December 2010 decision proclaiming Gbagbo the winner.

Ouattara was officially installed as President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on 21 May, in the administrative capital of Yamoussoukro. In attendance were 20 Heads of State and other high-level dignitaries, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Later, the Secretary-General met with President Ouattara, who expressed gratitude for the world's solidarity with Ivoirians and to the UN for helping to restore democracy and contribute to establishing lasting peace.

Since then, financial and economic activity has resumed, roads and other infrastructure have been rehabilitated and the work of the Independent Electoral Commission reinitiated. Despite the progress achieved so far, a number of pressing challenges remain, and continued support from all Ivorian stakeholders and international and regional partners will be required to address them.

Legislative elections

A key task for the Ivorian authorities and their partners was to ensure open, free, fair and transparent legislative elections on 11 December 2012. UNOCI provided logistical, security and technical support to help secure the vote, which also benefited from significant financial contributions by the international community.

The elections were held in a generally calm and peaceful manner. Following the announcement of the provisional results by the Independent Electoral Commission in late December, the following stages of the process would involve the proclamation of the final results by the Ivorian Constitutional Council, and the certification by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General that every stage of the electoral process provided all the necessary guarantees for holding open, free, fair and transparent elections, in accordance with international standards.

Pressing priorities

Following the post-elections crisis, and although large-scale killings had abated by mid-year, the situation in the country remained of concern. UNOCI continued to support the efforts of the national security forces to stabilize the country, including through increased joint patrols and by reinforcing its presence in the volatile west – along the border with Liberia - and in the east of the country, along the Ghanaian border.

To further stabilize the security situation, UNOCI also assisted the Ivorian authorities in collecting weapons through ad hoc disarmament activities, targeting those posing the greatest risk to stabilization.

UNOCI also strengthened coordination arrangements with the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). For example, during the legislative elections in Côte d'Ivoire, UNMIL temporarily reinforced UNOCI with military and police personnel, as well as aviation assets.

Nonetheless, there were continued reports of human rights violations committed by armed elements, including from the Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI). The reconstitution and reform of the security and rule of law institutions, including steps to address impunity and progress towards national reconciliation, remain critical. UNOCI has strengthened its human rights monitoring, investigation and reporting capacity, and also provided human rights training to the FRCI and civil society representatives.

The newly created Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is headed by former Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny and involves football star Didier Drogba, was officially inaugurated on 28 September.

UNOCI supports the Commission in developing a programme of work. In order to promote reconciliation at the local level, the mission's broadcasting capacity, UNOCI-FM, contributed to creating an overall peaceful environment, including for the legislative elections. The mission also organized sports and cultural activities throughout the country.

UNMIL

A fragile democracy holds election

UNMIL provides logistical support and international coordination in elections. Monrovia, Liberia, 11 October 2011. (UN Photo/Staton Winter)

Despite the heavy morning drizzle, Martha Sonpon, 35, waited patiently in the queue outside a polling station in the suburbs of Monrovia with her two-year-old daughter strapped to her back. As soon as a polling officer spotted her, he ushered her to the head of the long line as pregnant women, mothers and the physically challenged were given priority to cast their ballots.

It was Liberia's second democratic election since the end of the civil war, but Sonpon was voting for the first time. Like thousands of Liberians who fled the country to escape the 14-year civil war, she spent more than a decade as a refugee in Ghana and returned home only three years ago. "I am glad to have the opportunity to choose my government through elections, not by fighting", she said.

The elections were the culmination of a spirited, weeks-long campaign devoid of any major security incidents. This was also an election that was fully organized by Liberian national institutions headed by the National Elections Commission (NEC).

UN support

The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) supported the elections by coordinating international assistance and providing logistical support, such as transporting election materials. Over 170 Liberia National Police (LNP) officers were also moved by UN helicopters to remote areas of the country. In addition, the mission stood by the LNP helping to maintain a peaceful atmosphere in the country. The mission also supported the deployment of electoral observers from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union to difficult-to-access regions.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the smooth elections and commended the people of Liberia for exercising their right to vote in a calm and peaceful manner. The ECOWAS election observation mission, as well as the African Union and the Carter Centre observer missions, declared the first round of elections free, fair and transparent.

Handling refugees from Côte d'Ivoire

Throughout the year, Liberia hosted a massive refugee influx from neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire following widespread post-election violence in that country. At the height of the influx, which began in November 2010, there were nearly 200,000 Ivorians in Liberia, raising security concerns.

UNMIL has been supporting the Liberian National Police's Emergency Response Unit and Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization officers to engage in regular patrols along the Ivorian border and has stepped up its own surveillance, including in inaccessible areas, with air patrols. UNMIL has also enhanced inter-mission cooperation with the UN Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) to ensure effective information-sharing, coordinated patrolling on both sides of the border and joint border operations. UNMIL also sent troops and aviation assets to support UNOCI during the December elections in Côte d'Ivoire.

The blue helmets continue to patrol refugee settlements spread across several counties in collaboration with Liberian law enforcement agencies. They have also kept supply roads open, helping delivery of humanitarian supplies. Peacekeeping engineers have been constructing and rehabilitating access roads to two major refugee camps set up in Bahn and Little Wlebo.

UNMIL continues to support the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as other UN agencies, funds and programmes, in dealing with the unexpected burden Liberia has been shouldering for one year now. In November 2011, as Liberians were grappling with the political fall-out of their troubled run-off election, there were more than 130,000 Ivorian refugees still in Liberia, escaping the threat of post-election violence in their own country.

By the time the results were announced, it became clear that no single presidential candidate had won an absolute majority, necessitating a run-off ballot between incumbent President Ellen Johson Sirleaf of the Unity Party, who won 43.9 per cent of the votes, and Winston Tubman of the Congress for Democratic Party (CDC), who mustered 32.7 per cent. The run-off election was held on 8 November.

However, with some opposition parties led by the CDC alleging irregularities during the first round of elections and demanding the reorganization of the NEC, the prospect of a smooth run-off election became less likely. The calls by ECOWAS, the African Union and others to seek redress through legal channels went unheeded. The CDC announced a boycott of the run-off and an opposition gathering on the eve of the election became violent with one confirmed death. The second round run-off election went ahead as planned.

In an atmosphere of anxiety and confusion, voter turn-out for the run-off was only 37.4 per cent, and President Sirleaf emerged the winner with more than 90 per cent of the votes cast. International and local observers billed the run-off vote as transparent, fair and credible with no major irregularities.

A nascent democracy

Liberia's second democratic elections since the civil war, widely touted as a litmus test for the country's nascent democracy, have demonstrated the still fragile state of Liberia's democracy. Liberia is a country in a delicate post-conflict transition. The disagreements around the second round run-off election and efforts since have underscored the urgent importance of reconciliation and inclusiveness to ensure that the peace can hold.

The President of the ECOWAS Commission, James Victor Gbeho, highlighted the need to raise the level of political education and advocacy in the region to ensure that political leaders recognized that "there is life after losing an election and that in every election there must be a winner and a loser".

MONUSCO

Promoting peace and reconciliation

In October 2009, a conflict over resources erupted between the Enyele and Munzaya communities in Equateur province. The conflict expanded and by July 2010 had caused significant displacement of people. Tensions rose between the two communities, who live in an area of endemic poverty.

Against this backdrop, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) began to support the construction of a community radio in Dongo, Equateur Province.

In addition to capacity-building workshops for civil society, seminars in conflict management, mediation, appeasement and welfare activities, MONUC (and subsequently the renamed United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUSCO) worked together with the UN Country Team to bring together communities that had been seriously splintered by inter-communal animosity.

What emerged was a "people's radio", dedicated to promoting peace, reconciliation and development.

Dongo Radio

Broadcasts of the Dongo Community Radio (RACODO) cover a range of more than 100 kilometers, stretching beyond the DRC's borders. The primary objective is not only to serve the people of Dongo, but also to reach internally displaced people and the thousands of Congolese refugees who fled across the Ubangui River to the Republic of Congo during the violence.

RACODO's programmes are primarily geared towards reconciliation. This has benefitted the population not only in the DRC, but also in other areas, such as Betu in neighbouring Republic of Congo, where it has helped to raise awareness that security and peace are returning to the affected areas in Equateur. This outreach tool has done much to encourage people to return

MONUSCO peacekeepers on DRC escorting assignment. Dungu, DRC, 19 August 2011. (UN Photo/Myriam Asmani)

home to the villages they had fled from.

The radio programming is managed by the non-governmental organization, "Search for Common Ground". Hearing news about improved living conditions in their home areas people give confidence to return to their villages. The broadcasts also encourage reconciliatory talks between and among communities.

A joint endeavour

This joint UN initiative has yielded a number of positive results. In particular, the programme has been encouraging different communities to live together in peace, including through promoting mutual respect of each other's traditions and cultural rites.

MONUSCO constructed the radio station's main building. UNICEF provided sanitation facilities; the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees furnished the broadcasting studio and trained the first group of journalists; and the UN Population Fund provided a vehicle for the journalists to use.

In March 2010, at the community radio project launch, MONUC's head of Office in Equateur Province, Mr. Ould Mohamed Elhacen, said, "May this be the cement of community cohesion, a development tool and a factor of definitive stability in this zone". His hope is gradually becoming a reality.

Alongside RACODO's efforts, MONUSCO also continued to advocate for additional efforts focusing on reintegration and community development.

Electoral support

In accordance with its mandate, MONUSCO provided technical and logistical support to the Congolese Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for the conduct of the presidential and legislative elections held on 28 November 2011. More than 300 flights by helicopter and 40 by plane transported some 5,000 tons of electoral materials around the country in support of that process. MONUSCO also provided transport for the deployment of more than 400 international electoral observers across the country.

In addition to logistical support, MONUSCO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided technical assistance to INEC, including with regard to the voter registration process. MONUSCO and UNDP also supported the production, coordination and distribution of materials designed to heighten public awareness of the presidential and legislative elections and promote civic education.

In 210 sites around the country, 350,000 electoral agents were trained and then monitored the electoral process at the 64,000 polling stations and 169 centers for compilation of the results. In addition, some 900 legislative candidates received training and more than 500 trainers were trained on gender issues and elections in anticipation of the provincial and local elections.

Operation Santa Claus

On 18 December 2011, MONUSCO, with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo, launched "Operation Santa Claus" in northeastern Orientale province. The joint initiative aimed at preventing horrific attacks against the local populations that had been perpetrated during past end-of-year holiday seasons by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Major obstacles in Orientale province included the rough terrain and lack of infrastructure, such as roads, which make remote and isolated communities particularly vulnerable to attacks. To deter possible LRA attacks, MONUSCO contingents were deployed around the region in key towns, such as Dungu, Duru, Djabir, Lingkofo, Niangara, Bongadi and Limaya.

Operation Santa Claus was successfully completed on 3 January 2012. General Chander Prakash, Force Commander of MONUSCO, explained that "the goal of the operation had been to help ensure there were no LRA attacks in MONUSCO's areas of operation and that the population enjoyed the holiday season in peace and security. In this regard, we were successful. It was like a Christmas present to the local population, and mine was in their very appreciative response".

UNIOGBIS

Building capacity to promote dialogue

Since 1999, the UN has had a special political mission in Guinea-Bissau to assist the country's multiple challenges, including military violence, political instability and political assassinations. As it strives to institute stability and development, there is a need to build human and institutional capacity for peace, governance and security reforms.

In collaboration with international partners, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) is assisting national authorities to address these and other challenges.

Joseph Mutaboba is the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Guinea-Bissau and Head of UNIOGBIS. Based on the country's needs, detailed in national action plans and agendas, UNIOGBIS' capacity-building programme is based on the UN Development Assistance Framework, which takes into account the mission's peacebuilding initiatives, including the security sector reform process.

In 2011, the programme provided financial and technical support for more than 20 seminars, training sessions and sensitization initiatives. Participation totaled 1,060, representing 800 members of the defense and security forces, public service personnel and representatives of civil society.

Building a vision

UNIOGBIS, the UN Development Programme and the UN Peacebuilding Fund are providing Parliament with technical and financial support in organizing a 2012 national conference aimed at reconciliation and building a national vision. Building capacity, a facilitation skills training has already enhanced the results of the preparatory conferences.

In his report on Guinea-Bissau dated 21 October 2011, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated that the National Conference offered "a timely and historic opportunity for the people of Guinea-Bissau to turn a new page and embark on an irreversible process that seeks to close the door to

First seminar on human rights for Guinea-Bissau Parliament Members, organized by UNIOGBIS. Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, 19 December 2011. (UN Photo/Vladimir Monteiro)

Training for equality

Despite coming from two different worlds, the UN Population Fund's Dionisia Gomes shares a common goal with Bissau-Guinean Armed Forces Captain Fidelis Oliveira. They are both interested in learning about and training others in human rights and gender equity.

In 2000, Ms. Gomes participated in training on peace consolidation, female leadership and gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping missions. Eleven years later, she is still learning. "Eight months after a course on [Security Council] resolution 1325, my organization, the West Africa Network for Peace, conducted a seminar recommending gender committees within the security and defense forces. Today, they are a reality", she says proudly. Ms. Gomes also recognizes the impact of successive trainings on her career. "They have opened doors for me, such as working with regional organizations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and even helped me to be a better staff member".

Capt. Oliveira first received human rights training in Angola as a UN peacekeeper in 1997. "It was very helpful and taught us about critical topics, such as military and civilian relationships". When UNIOGBIS organized a workshop on human rights for the defense and security forces, he didn't hesitate. Now, Capt. Oliveira trains colleagues. "I explain how the military should submit to civilian power. This year, the Armed Forces organized a football tournament between military and civilian teams, bringing together both groups".

the death, destruction and divisions of the past and to open the way towards a brighter future based on genuine national reconciliation and unity".

Additionally, a National Judiciary Training Centre was established to help support judges, prosecutors and lawyers.

Two major workshops, conducted to strengthen national capacities in implementing security sector reform (SSR), centered on cooperation and information-sharing among the Public Prosecution Service, magistrates and police investigators. Sessions focusing on child protection and the criminal justice system also created synergies among the stakeholders.

Computer-based training for security forces personnel bolstered national police and customs while assisting the institutions in combating drug trafficking and organized crime.

UN Police provide technical assistance to the security reform in Guinea-Bissau. Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, 3 February 2011. (UN Photo/Vladimir Monteiro)

One female police agent said that the training helped her to better understand "how to address a citizen in the street, respecting his or her rights and avoiding the use of force". Another police agent added that he learned how to build a good relationship with a police informant.

Throughout the year, UNIOGBIS also conducted various workshops for journalists, including on SSR, national dialogue and reconciliation and gender equality, as well as several training sessions on human rights, specifically for members of the defense and security forces.

In addition to reinforcing the promotion of human rights and gender equality in the Police and Armed Forces, the training provided the added value of improving relations between these bodies with the general public—essential for dialogue and reconciliation.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, training sessions for prison guards were held on prisoner, detainee and international human rights standards.

Moving forward

The elaboration of the National Gender Policy in 2011 constituted a milestone for gender equality and equity in the country. A member of the Ministry of Women affirmed that the gender training received was "fundamental to the National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity, particularly in helping to organize the team in charge of conceptualizing, generating, and drafting the National Policy".

UN engagement is ongoing. SRSG Mutaboba assures that in 2012, UNIOGBIS will continue to work together with the UN Country Team as part of an integrated UN presence in Guinea-Bissau. Key reforms will be targeted in areas such as SSR implementation; promotion of the rule of law and human rights; combating drug trafficking, organized crime and impunity; and consolidation of national dialogue and gender equality.

UNAMID

High-capacity rolling water containers distributed by UNAMID to local population. Gurrer village, Darfur, 4 May 2011. (UN Photo/St. Colley Saney)

Driving peace efforts in Darfur

A nighttime attack on a peacekeeping patrol in the Zam Zam internally displaced persons (IDPs) camp on 10 October jolted the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), which has been largely credited with reducing violence where its troops are present. Two Rwandan soldiers and one Senegalese police advisor were killed and five others injured.

The Government of the North Darfur State immediately condemned the attack, blaming the armed movement "Minni Minnawi", which denied responsibility. UNAMID, the State Government said, was the "light of peace". Later, at the UN Security Council, the Sudanese Permanent Representative blamed the peacekeepers for the incident.

Zam Zam, 10 kilometres outside El Fasher, accommodates some 150,000 IDPs who depend largely upon UNAMID for security. UNAMID kept up its patrols, although the consequences of the October ambush threatened to reverberate. A month later, a Sierra Leonean peacekeeper was killed in yet another attack, this one in Nyala, South Darfur.

Then on 24 December, as rebel movements crossed north Darfur heading east, the Justice and Equality Movement leader Khalil Ibrahim was killed in an attack in North Kordofan, outside UNAMID's area of responsibility.

During 2011, many IDPs returned home; others resettled elsewhere. The numbers of civilians killed in belligerent acts were in the three-figures, a huge decrease since the height of the conflict eight years earlier.

UNAMID credits in part the near doubling of its patrols and more "robust" posture. A framework for peace, the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), was drafted in Qatar after nearly two years of negotiations. The Government of Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) com-

mitted themselves to the DDPD in a ceremony on 14 July.

Joint Special Representative (JSR) Ibrahim Gambari, named Chief Joint Mediator ad interim in June, continued to urge the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdel Wahid to sign on to the DDPD. In November, these groups, along with the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minnawi and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, formed the Sudan Revolutionary Front and re-iterated their intention to overthrow the Khartoum Government.

In late October, after 21 years, LJM leader Al Tijane Sesi returned to Darfur as Chair of the new Darfur Regional Authority, which was set up in December, one of the steps set out in the DDPD. The reception on the ground was mixed, as opposition movements held sway in some IDP camps. But implementation of the DDPD continued.

Beset with rebellions and economic strain following the secession of South Sudan, the Government of Sudan reacted sharply to Security Council resolution 2003, adopted in July, extending the Mission mandate by a year. Government officials expressed through the media their extreme displeasure with some provisions of the resolution. JSR Gambari sought to assure them that UNAMID would not be expanding its presence nor altering its mandate, which remained, since 2007, to protect civilians, support the delivery of humanitarian assistance and further the peace process.

Earlier, in June, UNAMID's work with the Government on the International Darfur Conference on Water for Sustainable Peace contributed to addressing one of the root causes of the conflict: competition over natural resources in the midst of climate change and urban population growth. Pledges and expressions of interest, led by the Government itself, indicated that half of the Conference's US $1 billion goal would be met. From that point, UNAMID and other stakeholders in Darfur began stressing the need for early recovery and development to shore up the peace process.

Operation Spring Basket

Also in mid-2011, UNAMID's Operation Spring Basket, conducted with relief agencies, sought to assist in expanding humanitarian access to remote, conflict-impacted communities in areas under both Government and "movement" control. JSR Gambari visited the embattled Jebel Marra area to assure people that the international community had not forgotten their plight. UNAMID also distributed 3,000 water rollers, easily transportable containers that carry up to 75 liters of water.

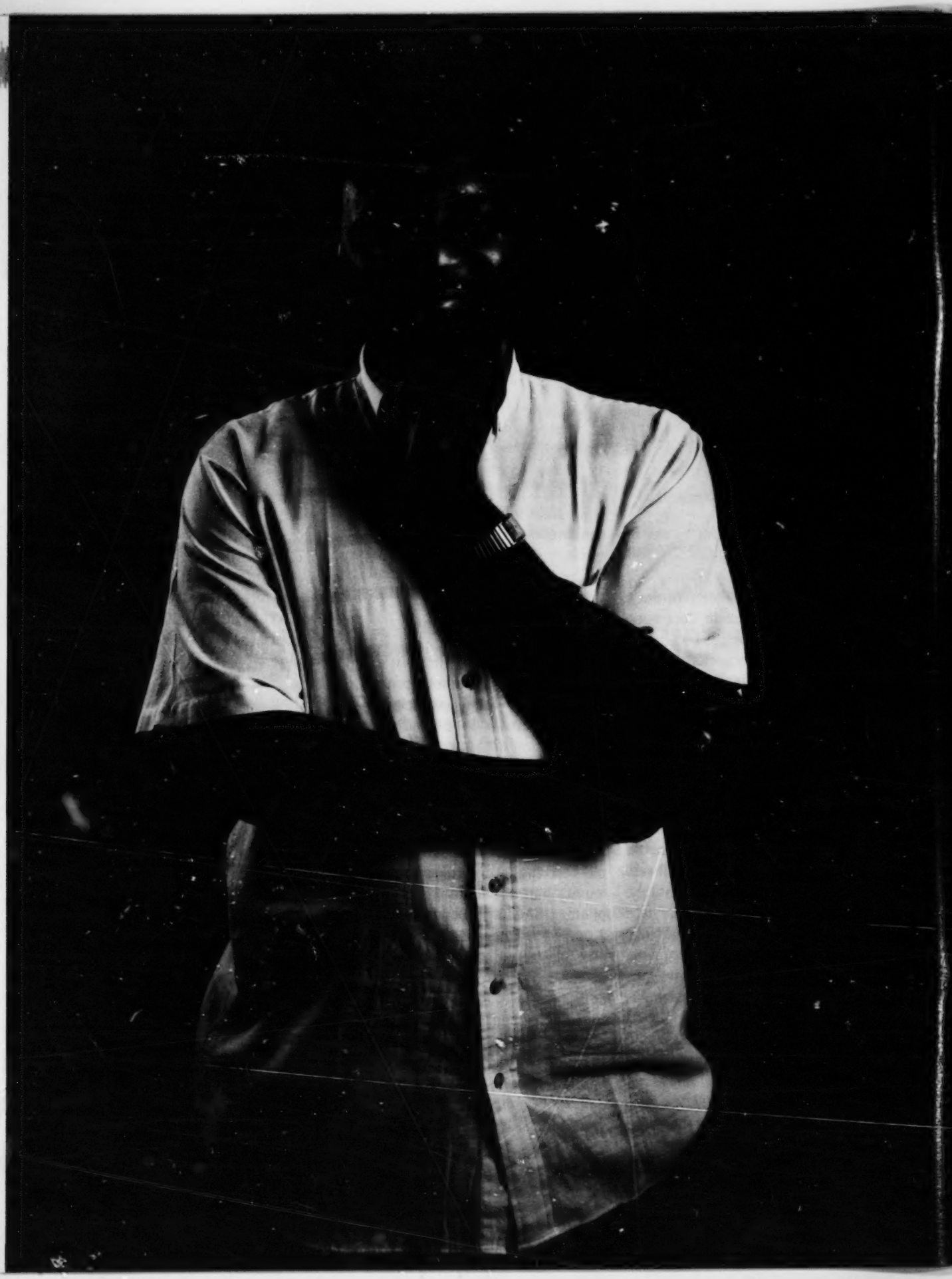
In an agreement with the Government to "bridge" the way toward a UN radio station, the Mission began broadcasting daily programming on Darfur state radios.

UNAMID's reconciliation efforts, largely led by civil affairs teams, were bearing fruit in some areas. Crop protection committees were formed to ease tensions between nomads and pastoralists. Areas under cultivation visibly increased. Members of rival groups began attending joint meetings. Freedom of movement for average Darfuris also expanded.

As the year ended, UNAMID had begun DDPD dissemination, now as the designated framework for the peace process. JSR Gambari urged the international community to press the non-signatory movements to get on board. Prescribed by the DDPD, a Cease Fire Commission chaired by UNAMID meets every other week, while the Follow-On Commission continues implementation activities in Doha.

The DDPD represents a "new beginning" for Darfur according to JSR Gambari, whose goal has been to bring the peace process from Doha to the people of Darfur. The lack of an "enabling environment", that is the presence of civil and human rights on the ground, continued to dampen such plans.

The year 2012 will test whether the parties to the Darfur conflict will join the peace process to which UNAMID has contributed immensely - through its resources, expertise, logistics and security, as well as with the lives of its peacekeepers.



BY UNAMID COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION
- OLIVIER CHASSOT

"I am an Ambassador for UNAMID. My job is to translate messages from the local community to the Police Advisors. I'm here to facilitate communication and convey UNAMID messages to the Darfurian population", said Alhadi Mohamed Sulimán. Like many other Sudanese staff working with UNAMID, Alhadi is proud of his contribution to Darfur and to the mission. The photo project "**National Staff of UNAMID – Contribution & Dreams**" gave him and his colleagues a voice and a face.

In Spring 2011, UNAMID Communication and Public Information Division launched a project on the mission's national staff. Entitled "National Staff of UNAMID – Contribution & Dreams", it is a book of portraits and interviews. The idea was to pay a tribute to those men and women who try to build a brighter future for their family and their country. It also aims to improve the perception that other staff and the international community might have of them as national staff usually occupy lower positions and their contribution is frequently not as well recognized as that of their international colleagues.

Photo sessions were organized in UNAMID photo studio in El Fasher, North Darfur, using controlled light and a black background. The purpose was to create visual uniformity throughout the project and to emphasize the focus on the subject, avoiding distractions. In a country where photography is not very developped, "obtaining the consent of the first national staff was not easy" recalls Olivier Chassot, photographer and UNAMID Public Information Officer and author of the project. "The first subjects were quite skeptical and it took a lot of time to gain their trust. The turning point was in printing and displaying and to display them in my office. Suddenly, my Sudanese colleagues became curious, asked questions and wanted to know more about this project. They finally agreed to participate and even brought some of their colleagues along. After the end of the project, new staff were still coming in, asking to be included".

Amna Jibril

28 years old
Single
From El Fasher, North Darfur
Legal Officer

the profile

When did you start working for UNAMID?
In January 2009.

What was your job before working for UNAMID?
I was a lawyer in a private office in El Fasher and I participated in many workshops and seminars in El Fasher, Nyala and Khartoum, on legal issues and human rights organized by the United Nations Development Programme, International Rescue Committee and some of NGOs. I have attended many workshops for capacity-building in the Gambia, Uganda and Kenya. I did many lectures on Sudanese Laws. For example, on Personal Status Law, Criminal Law and Civil Procedure Law to the IDPs on Abu Shouk and Zamzam camps.

Why did you decide to join UNAMID?
I joined because I want to be an international aid worker. As the first step, I decided to be an aid worker for UNAMID because of the people in Darfur. It is a golden opportunity to work with the UN where I have acquired knowledge on international laws and the UN system. I am proud of myself as national staff with UNAMID.

How do you see your contribution to Darfur and peace through your work?
Through my work I can help people through various means, for example by meeting with stakeholders and conducting discussions with women about the peace process.

How do you see yourself and your career after UNAMID?
I see myself as a strong person who can stand without assistance. I will apply to other posts in UN missions throughout the world and continue my education until I get my Ph.D in the USA.

Alsadig Jadallah

Engaged
From El Fasher, North Darfur
Human Resources Assistant

the profile

When did you start working for UNAMID?
In June 2010.

What was your job before working for UNAMID?
I was a translator and base operator for the international Human Rights NGO "Children of the World".

Why did you decide to join UNAMID?
I have been working for NGOs since 1996 and I wanted to work as a UN international staff with a UN agency.

How do you see your contribution to Darfur and peace through your work?
I think it is an important contribution. I serve my clients with good manners and hope to contribute to Darfur and the return of helpless people (IDPs) back to a normal live.

How do you see yourself and your career after UNAMID?
I look forward to working with other UN agencies. Otherwise, I will go back to my old job as a lecturer in a Sudanese University.

Mohamed Zakaria Adam Hassan

35 years old
Married
From El Fasher, North Darfur
Interpreter & Translator

the profile

When did you start working for UNAMID?
In May 2008.

What was your job before working for UNAMID?
I worked as a youth coordinator with Community Habitat Fund.

Why did you decide to join UNAMID?
Previously, we had no real presence in international organizations, but more recently, there has been some progress. For that reason, I think qualified people may get some opportunities for international posts through their experience in NGOs, UN agencies or even UNAMID.

How do you see your contribution to Darfur and peace through your work?
Since the interpreter serves as the "tongue" of the mission, my contribution will be established on conveying the correct and actual message of the mission.

How do you see yourself and your career after UNAMID?
This will remain one of the major challenges for all national staff. It is the perpetual question that everyone has been asking themselves. As I am sure that I will not find the core values, environment or salaries of UNAMID in any other institution in Darfur, I will establish my own translation and interpretation office either here in Darfur or in the capital of Sudan, Khartoum.

Mayada Umbadda

25 years old
Single
From Khartoum / El Fasher
Public Information Assistant

the profile

When did you start working for UNAMID?
In October 2009.

What was your job before working for UNAMID?
I was a clinical microbiologist.

Why did you decide to join UNAMID?
It was by fortunate chance. I came to El Fasher to help care for an ailing relative and submitted a job application for UNAMID. I had previously worked with a small national NGO and had wanted to continue working with aid agencies while in El Fasher.

How do you see your contribution to Darfur and peace through your work?
Working in public information means that frequently, we are the only reliable source of information on the conflict. Rumour and misinformation often only fuel tensions and rekindle violence. We provide crucial information that can hopefully mobilize all parties to the conflict, as well as the international community, to redouble their efforts to help bring an end to the fighting.

How do you see yourself and your career after UNAMID?
I hope to pursue a degree in development and return to Sudan, to do some lasting good.

Inas Mohamad Baraka Mohamad

29 years old
Single
From Kabkabiya, North Darfur
Human Rights Office Assistant

the profile

When did you start working for UNAMID?
In May 2008.

What was your position before?
My position was in the capacity of community worker with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and as a Programme Assistant for the Livelihood with Cooperative Housing Fundation International.

Why did you decide to become an aid worker for UNAMID?
I decided to join UNAMID for many reasons. To contribute to helping the Darfurian community, to develop my own capacity and to interact with people from all over the world.

How do you see your contribution to Darfur and peace through your work?
I think I contribute to peace in Darfur by facilitating the work of the Human Rights Section and by sharing information.

How do you see yourself and your career after UNAMID?
There have been some improvements and benefits after joining UNAMID, so I am feeling satisfied with my career. However, I am still looking for further career development and would like to start a Master's Degree in Human Rights next year and one day to become UN international staff.

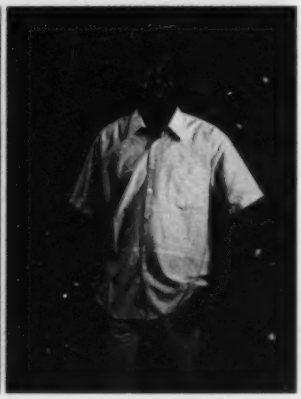
(continued from page 31)

The project was warmly welcomed by the national staff. By providing information on their background, motivation, initial expectations and hopes for the future, this project not only underlines their professionalism but also highlights UNAMID's positive impact on national staff's career, which can be carried over to peacekeeping in general.

In the coming months, UNAMID is going to print a coffee table book containing the pictures and interviews as well as other photo projects. A simpler version is already available at http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/2509562

Olivier Chassot is working on extending this project to other peacekeeping missions.

Some national staff depicted in this project have since left the mission and have begun to realize their dreams.



MINURSO

Guarding lives

The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (known by its French acronym, MINURSO) was established with the 1991 ceasefire agreement between Morocco and the Frente Polisario to monitor the truce and organize a referendum on self-determination for the territory. With the suspension of referendum preparations in 2000 and a stalemate in the political process, MINURSO continues to monitor the ceasefire, conduct mine action operations and support UN confidence-building measures, as well as those of the Personal Envoy to advance a political solution to the conflict.

Demining activities

In addition to extensive monitoring of ceasefire compliance and violation investigation, the Mission plays an important role in clearing dangerous areas, contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Since 1976, an unknown quantity of ERW lies scattered across the vast territory of Western Sahara. Over time, contamination has reportedly caused more than 2,500 casualties and 500 deaths amongst the local population traversing the territory to graze livestock and search for water.

The socio-economic impact is considerable. Livelihood opportunities in the desert are limited by the scarcity of water, yet the majority of accidents occur along the berm, an area that is rich in wadis drainage courses and other water resources. This land provides extensive vegetation and sites for water catchments during the rainy season, making it an otherwise ideal location for animal herding and small scale agricultural sites. The presence of mines and ERW impedes the livelihoods of shepherds, as well as the return of refugees.

MINURSO MACC deminers in the scorching Sahara desert heat. Tifariti, Western Sahara, 1 September 2011. (UN Photo/Ginevra Cucinotta)

"We feel free to move safely"

Community leader Sid Ahmed proudly asserts that clearance operations "have made a big difference to my people". Before, nomads were spread across the territory, searching for safe areas in which to live. In 2009, when removal activities began in Western Sahara, people started to re-inhabit villages and communities.

"Now we can move in all directions without being scared of unexploded ordnance (UXOs). We feel free to move safely". Before clearance operations, explains Sid Ahmed: "People were very frightened. We frequently received reports of accidents and UXOs exploding by themselves, especially during the summer months. It would have not been possible to move to Bir Tiguisit without clearance".

Clearance operations are undertaken on the West side of the berm by the Royal Moroccan Army, and on the East side by UN MACC, MINURSO's UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC). MACC is managed by the UN Mine Action Service through its implementing partner, Landmine Action UK (LMA)/Mechem.

In 2011, through MACC, MINURSO completed coordination for the eradication of all known unexploded ordnance (UXOs) in Western Sahara. This resulted in the destruction of more than 7,000 UXOs in 550 known locations. Ranging from aircraft bombs to artillery projectiles and hand and rocket-propelled grenades, this crucial progress was achieved when both parties strengthened their cooperation with MACC during the summer. The mutual effort focused on information-sharing and complying with international demining standards.

In addition to destroying UXOs, since 2009, the MACC has coordinated clearance for over 15 million square metres of cluster munitions strike areas and destroyed more than 11,000 cluster bomb units.

Foreseeing the complete clearing of cluster munitions and UXOs, in 2012 the MACC will concentrate on clearing 30 known mine fields east of the berm (for a total of 137 km²). Eliminating mines and ERW provides both MINURSO military observers and the local population with safe movement in the once-contaminated areas.

Complementary to clearance operations, the MACC is providing mine awareness briefings for all MINURSO newcomers. In 2012, the MACC will launch a Mine Risk Education project to sensitize Saharan populations to the threat of mines/ERW and to warn communities of the hazardous areas.

Supporting families

Along a previously contaminated track, the village of Bir Tiguisit has mushroomed. As community leader Sid Ahmed attests, small businesses are now providing work for residents in the area. **(See box for more.)**

Schools were also built. In previously contaminated areas, around Bir Tiguisit and Mehaires, hundreds of local children now have safe access to education.

Furthermore, since 2004, MINURSO has provided air transport and police facilitation to the UNHCR family visits exchange programme. Designed to promote face-to-face contact between Saharawi living west of the berm (controlled by Morocco) and their relatives in Tindouf (Algeria) refugee camps, it enables family who have been separated since the outbreak of war to maintain regular contact. Since its inception, the UNHCR-led programme has benefited over 10,000 Saharawi.

Partnering with the African Union

In June 2010, General Assembly resolution 64/288 established the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) with a mandate to enhance the UN-AU partnership in the area of peace and security; to provide operational and planning support to AU peace operations; and to help the AU build its institutional capacity for deploying and managing peace operations.

Consolidating and expanding the activities of three separate entities, UNOAU represents the Departments of Political Affairs, Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support.

UNOAU is also the primary UN focal point for the AU on peace and security matters. Regularly called upon to provide the UN perspective on these important issues, it has already greatly strengthened the UN presence at AU Peace and Security Council meetings.

Headed by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Zachary Muburi-Muita, UNOAU has 19 specialized planner/advisers covering a range of key peacemaking and peacekeeping functions.

Within the context of the African Peace and Security Architecture, UNOAU supports the AU's activities in conflict prevention, management and resolution. Speaking during UNOAU inauguration on 22 February 2011, Dr Jean Ping, African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson said in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, "In as much as we stand together to inaugurate this new Office, we are also making a step in a new beginning that characterizes the relationship between the United Nations and the African Union and its Commission. The establishment of the UNOAU and the physical manifestation of the step forward, do reflect that both the AUC and the UN remain steadfast in the commitment to move beyond pronouncements of coordination towards actual, real and tangible demonstration of a coordinated approach".

Multifunctional capacity

The office supports political development monitoring by sharing political analysis and providing technical advice and support on: conflict prevention and mediation; elections; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; security sector reform and public information. It also provides technical advice to the AUC for long-term and ongoing peacekeeping or peace support operations, particularly on military, police and mine action.

UNOAU assists the AUC in developing administrative and management processes to operationally support peace operations, including in the areas of human resources, finance, training, procurement, logistics and information technology.

In coordination with the AU, the Regional Economic Commissions and Regional Coordination Mechanisms—UNOAU works with the UN special political missions and peacekeeping operations providing support in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

With the AU Peace and Security Department, the office also co-chairs the Peace and Security Cluster, established in the framework of the AU Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme to help coordinate UN family support in the area of peace and security.

Joint UN-AU Technical Assessment Mission. Mogadishu, Somalia, 13 December 2011. (UN Photo)

UNOWA

Mobilizing regional efforts for stability

The United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) is the first UN regional special political mission dedicated to conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. It also promotes good governance, the rule of law, human rights and gender mainstreaming.

The office facilitates a regional approach, addressing cross-border and cross-cutting threats in 16 countries with a particular focus on election-related instability, security sector reform, terrorism and transnational organized crime, including illicit drug trafficking.

Given the growing regional dimension of the threats to peace and stability, UNOWA focused its activities on a number of cross-cutting regional issues in 2011.

Together with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other regional partners, Said Djinnit, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for West Africa, fostered political dialogue and consensus, for instance, by supporting the conclusion of the transition processes in Guinea and Niger. He also led preventive diplomacy actions, including in Burkina Faso and in Côte d'Ivoire.

As post-election violence has increasingly caused tensions in West Africa, the office undertook awareness-raising initiatives on electoral processes.

From 18 to 20 May 2011, the office organized a regional conference in Praia, Cape Verde, on "Elections and Stability in West Africa," in partnership with ECOWAS, the African Union (AU) and the UN System. The conference analyzed the impact of electoral processes on subregional stability and their implications for democracy and peacebuilding. Best practices and lessons learned from recent elections in West Africa were exchanged, including from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea. The "Praia Declaration on Elections and Stability in West Africa" reiterates key conditions for the conduct of peaceful elections, including the need to ensure national ownership and consensus, effective electoral administration and context-sensitive electoral assistance.

The declaration also provided a new opportunity for delegates from the sub-region to assist in the implementation of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. In actively disseminating the declaration's recommendations, West African civil society organizations are advocating for political rights and fair, peaceful electoral processes.

and Amadou Toumani Touré, President of Mali and Ms Kyung Wha Kang, Deputy High Commissioner OHCHR at the Regional Conference on Impunity, Justice and Human Rights. Bamako, Mali, 2 December 2011. (UN Photo/Habib Kouyate)

Piracy in the Gulf

The escalation of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea has had a negative impact on the economies of countries such as Benin and hinterland States that are served by its ports, while posing serious threats to maritime security. In response to a request for assistance made by President of Benin Boni Yayi, UNOWA teamed up with the UN Office in Central Africa (UNOCA) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as other UN entities to support anti-piracy efforts by dispatching an assessment mission to Benin and the Gulf of Guinea. The mission, from 7 to 24 November, assisted the Government of Benin in the formulation of a national integrated programme to address the issues of drug-trafficking and organized crime; assessed the scope of the threat of piracy in Benin and the Gulf of Guinea region; and explored possible options for an effective UN response. Its findings will be reported to the Security Council in early 2012.

The functioning of effective and impartial justice systems has been another key challenge towards ensuring good governance and the rule of law in West Africa.

From 2 to 5 December, a regional conference was held in Bamako, Mali, in the context of the 10th anniversary of the ECOWAS Protocol on Good Governance. Organized by UNOWA in collaboration with OHCHR and other UN entities and supported by the Government of Mali, ECOWAS, the AU and the International Organization of the Francophonie, the conference aimed at promoting justice and combating impunity in the subregion.

Progress reviewed on Commission to Resolve Cameroon-Nigeria Border Dispute. At the podium: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (centre), from left: Said Djinnit, his Special Representative for West Africa; Maurice Kamto, Minister Delegate at the Ministry of Justice of Cameroon; and Mohammed Bello Adoke, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Nigeria. United Nations, New York, 22 November 2011. (UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras)

At the end of the conference, a declaration was adopted providing concrete recommendations to strengthen good governance and the rule of law with a view to preventing conflicts. The participants also adopted a regional roadmap for justice, peace and stability in the subregion.

Organized crime

Weak rule of law and severe poverty in many West African countries undermine efforts to combat organized crime and drug trafficking. Through the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI), UNOWA combined efforts with UNODC, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Interpol, ECOWAS, the Department of Political Affairs and UN peace missions in the region to address this scourge.

Among other areas, WACI aims to build the capacity of national and regional law enforcement institutions, border management and anti-money-laundering entities in the pilot countries of Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. UNOWA is tasked with awareness-raising, mobilizing political support and organizing advisory services.

Cameroon-Nigeria border

As a result of SRSG Djinnit's efforts as chairman of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, the International Court of Justice's ruling on the states' territorial dispute has been implemented. To date, the parties have reached agreement on more than 1,700 km of an estimated 1,950 km of border between the states.

In March, both parties also agreed on the delimitation of the maritime border, closing the issue during their meeting in Yaoundé.

Before its 10th anniversary, the Mixed Commission hopes to finalize the demarcation process. The Secretary-General recently encouraged both the parties and the experts to speed up the momentum of their work in assessing the remaining 250-km land border and to consider outstanding issues.

UNPOS

Cause for hope

High Level Consultative meeting in Mogadishu, facilitated by UNPOS, leading to the signing of the Roadmap for completing the transitional period. Mogadishu, Somalia, 6 September 2011. (UN Photo)

It is all too easy to write Somalia off as an intractable problem. The country has been without a functioning Government for two decades. It remains fragmented and national leaders can seem to lack the commitment to make hard choices for real change.

Countless peace initiatives have produced a steady stream of agreements and a virulent insurgency would have succeeded in occupying the capital Mogadishu if not for the 9,000-plus African Union peacekeepers protecting the fragile Transitional Federal Government (TFG).

On the humanitarian side, a massive drought took tens of thousands of lives. Millions are at risk and entire populations are on the move across borders—threatening to destabilize the entire region.

Delivering assistance has been further complicated by insurgent groups refusing to allow aid agencies into some of the hardest hit areas.

And yet, amidst this unimaginable suffering, for the first time in decades there is real hope for progress.

The Roadmap

On 9 June, TFG President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Speaker of the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP) Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan ended a political stalemate between the Executive and the Legislature by signing the Kampala Accord, which was witnessed by President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia, Augustine Mahiga. A watershed in the peace process, it deferred elections for one year and provided for the establishment of a Roadmap for the way forward.

The Roadmap charts a clear course towards ending the transitional period in August 2012. It sets out four benchmark pri-

ority tasks — security, constitution, reconciliation and good governance — and is based on the concept of transparency, inclusiveness and Somali ownership of the process.

The document also establishes compliance mechanisms and makes it clear that future international assistance is based on the Somalis following through on their commitments.

In early September, a Consultative Meeting on Ending the Transition in Somalia, facilitated by the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), convened successfully in Mogadishu. The meeting, which would have been unthinkable just a few months before due to the security situation, brought together high-level representatives of the Transitional Federal Institutions, the regional states of Puntland, Galmudug and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a, as well as most of the major international partners.

Having all major parties sign the Roadmap in Mogadishu represented one of the brightest moments in the Somali peace process.

Despite this achievement, the international community remains realistic about the Roadmap. As an ambitious plan with a tremendously challenging timetable, it needs the donor community to support it with the necessary resources. All sides must work together to ensure progress on the key deliverables, and maintaining political will is critical to success.

Political progress has been underpinned by major advances in the security situation, which, on 6 August, shifted radically when the Islamist militant organization Al-Shabaab effectively withdrew from Mogadishu.

The extremists have since carried bloody terrorist attacks targeting the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somalis alike, such as the suicide bombing of 4 October that killed some 100 civilians, including a number of students hoping to study abroad.

That same month, Kenyan Armed Forces moved across the Somali border. The TFG and Kenyan officials then issued a communiqué that the action supported the TFG, which would retain the lead in fighting the insurgents.

In November, Ethiopian forces reportedly entered Somalia to assist in the fight against extremist elements.

Exploiting the withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from Mogadishu presents AMISOM with a new set of challenges. While achieving some remarkable successes, additional resources including personnel, logistics, intelligence and aviation will be required to capitalize on these gains and also to face new threats.

Somalian pirates

Piracy remains a hugely challenging problem. From 1 January to 1 November, 15 ships were captured, with 298 crew members held hostage.

Many ships now avoid the Somali coastline, taking longer routes that significantly raising their costs. Others use armed guards (Government approved, for example, on Italy and United Kingdom ships) and take the risk.

An international maritime response is working in parallel to ongoing efforts to increase prosecutions for illegal fishing and toxic waste dumping. Additionally, a number of organizations have begun to address root causes on land.

While progress is incremental, the grave threat persists, both on land and at sea and Somalia remains one of the most challenging issues on the international community's agenda.

On 9 December, in a historic visit to Mogadishu, the Secretary-General reiterated his personal commitment to work for sustainable peace. He stressed that only sustained engagement by all stakeholders will ensure that this golden opportunity for progress is fully seized. Somalis have waited long enough to realize the dream of a safe, secure, prosperous and democratic country at peace with itself and its neighbours.

BNUB

Launch of a reintegration programme for war-affected populations in Bubanza on UN Day, Bubanza, Burundi, 24 October 2011. (UN Photo/Mahamadou Coulibaly)

Making progress on the path to peace

In 2011, Burundi continued to make progress on a number of aspects of peace consolidation. The Government, with assistance from the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) and other partners, undertook several initiatives to enhance democratic governance, including the establishment of independent institutions, the adoption of strategies reflecting national governance priorities and the strengthening of national capacities.

One major achievement was the establishment of the National Independent Human Rights Commission. The Commission is tasked with receiving and investigating reports of human rights violations and requesting appropriate follow-up by national authorities. It also prepares reports and makes recommendations on the overall human rights situation.

BNUB provided technical support and advice throughout the process of discussing and later ratifying the law creating the Commission. Unanimously adopted by the National Assembly and the Senate on 14 and 24 December 2010 respectively, the law was promulgated by Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza on 5 January 2011.

The National Assembly appointed seven Commissioners, including Chairperson Frère Emmanuel Ntakarutimana, who were sworn in on 7 June 2011.

The Commission's tasks will not be easy. Notwithstanding progress recorded on a number of fronts, the human rights situation in Burundi remains of concern. Restrictions continue to be reported in areas such as freedom of expression and association and right to life and liberty.

Fortunately, the Commission has gotten off to a good start. By the end of 2011, it had already documented and was investigating some 50 cases of human rights violations. It was also drafting a three-year strategic plan, developing a framework of cooperation with other national stakeholders and undertaking further institution-building endeavors.

Mission support

The Security Council established BNUB, effective 1 January 2011, to replace the larger United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB). In addition to its work in setting up the National Independent Human Rights Commission, the mission plans to continue supporting the Commission to function productively and in full independence.

Along with promoting and protecting human rights, among other tasks, BNUB is mandated to strengthen the capacities of key national institutions, promote and facilitate dialogue between national actors and support efforts to fight impunity, particularly through establishing transitional justice mechanisms. The mission also aims to ensure that economic policies and strategies focus on peacebuilding and equitable growth.

BNUB's light footprint and mandate reflect the nation's progress since peace negotiations brought an end to years of civil war and violence. However, continued international support and assistance in peace consolidation, recovery and development remain vital.

As noted by the Secretary-General in his most recent report to the Security Council, "Burundi has in many ways provided a model of transition from a peacekeeping operation to a special political mission and an integrated United Nations office".

If overall progress continues, Burundi promises to be among those countries that definitively leave behind years of conflict and return to the path of development and democracy.

Indeed, BNUB intends to prepare benchmarks for its future evolution into a regular United Nations Country Team presence.

If overall progress continues, Burundi promises to be among those countries that definitively leave behind years of conflict and return to the path of development and democracy.

Joint celebration of World Food Day, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and the International Day of Rural Women with (from left) Stephane de Loecker, EU Ambassador to Burundi, Odette Kayitesi, Minister of Agriculture, Karin Landgren, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Gervais Rufyikiri, Second Vice-President. Mwaro, Burundi, 18 October 2011. (UN Photo/Mahamadou Coulibaly)

BINUCA

Assisting in national reconciliation

A sizeable portion of the Central African Republic (CAR) is controlled by armed groups. Ethnic tensions in the north and northeast, and armed incursions by rebels, criminal groups and poachers from neighboring countries have also contributed to the internal displac ment of 170,000 people.

Headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for the Central African Republic, Mrs. Margaret Vogt of Nigeria, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) is mandated to assist the CAR in consolidating peace and national reconciliation and promoting and protecting human rights.

In September 2011, armed groups of the Convention des Patriotes pour la Justice et la Paix (CPJP) and the Union des Forces Démocratiques pour le Rassemblement (UFDR) clashed in Bria, the capital of Haute-Kotto northeastern province. On 8 October, the parties signed a ceasefire agreement under the auspices of the National Mediator, Archbishop Paulin Pomodimo, with the support of BINUCA and the Department of Political Affairs (DPA).

Peace caravan

In order to further build confidence between belligerents and convey messages of peace, tolerance and reconciliation to communities affected by the conflict, the National Mediator launched on 14 November, in Bria, a six-day Peace and Reconciliation Caravan, with the participation of CPJP and UFDR leaders, Government and local officials, SRSG Vogt, the African Union (AU) Representative, and representatives from the sub-regional peacekeeping force (MICOPAX), as well as neighboring Chad and Sudan.

BINUCA supports Peace and Reconciliation Caravan where more than 4,000 people march in favour of the ceasefire. Bria, Central African Republic, 14 November 2011. (UN Photo/Franck Bitemo)

SRSG Margaret Vogt and AU Special Representative Hawa Ahmed Youssouf, at the launch of the Peace and Reconciliation Caravan, Bria, Central African Republic, 14 November 2011. (UN Photo/Franck Bitemo)

From 16 to 19 November, the Caravan visited five other towns in three north-eastern provinces, including Sam Ouandja (Haute-Kotto province), Birao, Sikikede and Tiringoulou (Vakaga province) and Ndele (Bamingui-Bangoran province). More than 25,000 people participated in the Peace and Reconciliation Caravan, a majority of whom were women. BINUCA played an instrumental role through the provision of logistical support to the Caravan.

More than 25,000 people participated in the Peace and Reconciliation Caravan

Everywhere, the National Mediator stated in the national language of Sango that peace was the most important asset, "Siriri ayeke kota mossoro". He urged Central Africans to support the peace process to foster trust, tolerance and brotherhood because there would be no development without peace and harmony first. He also acknowledged the courage and wisdom the belligerents' leaders displayed in signing the ceasefire agreement.

While CPJP and UFDR leaders lamented that the CAR Government had not made necessary efforts to restore state authority in the northeast, they also called for a speedy disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process for CPJP combatants and an effective reintegration of UFDR combatants, and pledged to live up to their commitment to renounce violence.

UNOCA

Battling the Lord's Resistance Army

During the UN Day exhibition in Libreville, UNOCA sensitized visitors on its mandate. Libreville, Gabon, 24 October 2011. (UN Photo/Norbert N. Ouendji)

Strengthened working relations with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the African Union (AU) is vital for the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) in fighting armed groups spreading terror throughout the sub-region.

One of the main areas of concern for UNOCA is the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which, since 2008, has killed over 2,400 people, abducted more than 3,400. Additionally, according to UN sources, approximately 440,000 persons are now considered displaced or as refugees due to the LRA. During the last six months of 2011, two countries under the purview of UNOCA, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo, have, respectively, seen more than 21,000 (between January 2010 and October 2011) and 49,000 (between January and August 2011) of their citizens affected by the activities of the LRA.

"No one can afford to remain indifferent to the atrocities of the LRA. The LRA continues to pose serious challenges for peace and security in the sub-region and is responsible for an acute humanitarian crisis in Central Africa", underlined Mr. Abou Moussa, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA. "We need everyone's support to stop this menace", he noted.

On 14 November 2011, SRSG Moussa presented the Report of Secretary-General on the LRA to the Security Council. He considers the LRA as a "serious transnational threat" that continues

to negatively impact the development of communities in the sub-region.

Members of the Security Council commended SRSG Moussa's leadership and reiterated their support to UNOCA's work to promote peace and security in Central Africa.

In an effort to enhance information-sharing, US diplomat and Senior UN Political Advisor Jeffrey DeLaurentis expressed hope that "UNOCA will work to establish focal points in all UN missions in LRA-affected areas and in the UN Office to the African Union".

SRSG Moussa has already initiated consultations with relevant partners. From 11 to 14 December 2011, he held productive meetings in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) with several stakeholders, including Mr. Francisco Caetano José Madeira, Special Envoy of the African Union (AU) on the LRA issue. SRSG Moussa briefed the latter on UNOCA's mandate to coordinate UN efforts on the LRA as requested in the Presidential Statement of the 14 November 2011 Security Council session on the LRA and to encourage cooperation between UNOCA and the AU on this issue.

The Council underlined the necessity of joint actions to address the humanitarian aspects of the threat. The work programme prepared by UNOCA takes into account those concerns, which were also discussed during a seminar organized in Libreville, Gabon, by UNOCA, from 10 to 11 October 2011. It highlights the importance of expanding programmes of defection, disarmament, demobilisation, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement; building regional capacity to respond to the LRA; implementing International Criminal Court arrest warrants; protecting children's rights; monitoring human rights; and developing a regional strategy for international humanitarian, development and peacebuilding assistance in the LRA-affected area.

Fighting piracy

Apart from the LRA and other armed groups that spread terror throughout Central Africa, fighting piracy and maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea is another important priority for UNOCA. This issue, amongst others, was raised by government authorities in the sub-region in the countries visited by SRSG Moussa between July and November 2011. Emphasis was consistently placed on deficiencies in coast guard training and difficulties related to equipment and infrastructure, financing and early warning mechanisms. Better coordination and improved communication and information exchange were also highlighted as crucial.

SRSG Moussa encourages a strategic and integrated approach "to resolve border disputes and prevent maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea". He believes that no effort should be spared to "implement UNOCA's mandate on conflict prevention and peace-building".

At the request of Benin President Yayi Boni, whose country's economy has been affected by piracy, the Secretary-General deployed an assessment mission to the Gulf of Guinea from 7 to 24 November 2011. The team examined the scope of the threat and provided recommendations on an anti-piracy strategy. The leaders of ECCAS Member States, including the affected countries in the sub-region — Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe – welcomed UNOCA's participation and look forward to working together to tackle this challenge.

During the 33rd Meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC), which was held in Bangui from 5 to 8 December 2011, Cameroon offered to host an international conference on maritime piracy. In close cooperation with UNSAC Member States, UNOCA, as the UNSAC secretariat since May 2011, will follow up on initiatives in this area. UNOCA's mandate also includes helping to strengthen the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in the areas of conflict prevention and peacemaking.

UNSCO

Political logjam in a changing region

Amidst 2011 transformations in the Middle East, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) focused on the Israeli-Palestinian issue. While a political solution has become more urgent for both Israel and the Palestinians, progress towards realizing the vision of two States living side by side in peace has been elusive.

As the only international Middle East peace envoy permanently on the ground, UN Special Coordinator Robert Serry maintains close contact with both Palestinian and Israeli counterparts. While UNSCO has been able to alleviate tensions, the mutual lack of confidence has prevented the resumption of direct negotiations.

Working closely with Quartet partners, Mr. Serry actively participated in a series of separate meetings with both parties. Quartet Principals met in February and again in summer to create an environment conducive for talks. By September, the Quartet proposed steps towards reaching an agreement before the end of 2012, on the basis of which the parties agreed to engage.

By end-December, Quartet envoys were in the midst of further meetings with Israeli and Palestinian negotiators to facilitate the resumption of meaningful direct negotiations. However, disputes over expanded Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory and deepening mistrust between the parties continued to bedevil the effort.

UNSCO and the UN Country Team, alongside other donors and international actors, have worked closely with the Palestinian Authority on its ambitious reform and revitalization programme.

UNSCO reports of April and September underscored that in areas where the UN is most engaged, governmental functions were sufficient for a viable State government. Yet, Mr. Serry highlighted his concern at the growing disconnect between stagnation in the peace process and the state-building achievements of the Palestinian Authority. Addressing the Security Council in July, Mr. Serry stressed, "Without a credible political path forward, accompanied by more far-reaching steps on the ground, the viability of the Palestinian Authority and its state-building agenda – and, I fear, of the two-State solution itself – cannot be taken for granted".

International recognition

In the absence of negotiations, Palestinian President Abbas submitted on 23 September an application for UN membership. On 31 October, UNESCO voted the Palestinians into its organization.

In reaction, Israel temporarily withheld tax revenues of the Palestinian Authority and further expanded settlement activities – including in East Jerusalem – in contravention of international law and its Roadmap obligations.

UN Special Coordinator Serry meets Palestinian women in a grocery store. Hebron, West Bank, 25 January 2011. (UN Photo)

The Secretary-General consistently stressed that an independent and viable Palestinian State living side-by-side in peace with a secure State of Israel is long overdue. He also underlined the necessity of negotiations to resolve all permanent status issues and remained focused on de-escalating tensions.

Turning to Gaza

In coordination with other regional players, UNSCO intensified preventive diplomacy over Gaza. Dangerous escalations in April, August and November saw Israel and the de facto Hamas authorities utilizing UNSCO channels to support Egyptian efforts to restore calm.

UNSCO supported efforts to secure the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit and Palestinian prisoners. In October, the Secretary-General welcomed the resolution of this humanitarian issue under Egypt's auspices.

The year witnessed a general increase in the amount of goods passing from Israel into Gaza and a small amount of exports from the territory. Israel approved some $265 million in UN projects. Still below the pre-blockade averages, economic activity there accelerated and unemployment dropped since 2010.

The sustainability of this progress, however, is uncertain. The situation of the civilian population in Gaza remains worrisome, with high poverty and a significant proportion of inhabitants dependent on humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, security concerns over weapons smuggling continue. Working towards lifting the closure and fully implementing Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) will remain a high priority in 2012.

"An independent and viable Palestinian State living side-by-side in peace with a secure State of Israel is long overdue".

While UNSCO facilitated dialogue between Palestinian interlocutors in Gaza and Ramallah to overcome the internal Palestinian divide, finalization of key provisions of the Palestinian unity agreement signed in May remains outstanding. In the year ahead, the mission will continue to support reconciliation efforts within the framework of the commitments of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the positions of the Quartet and the Arab Peace Initiative.

UNSCO also worked to preserve space for international non-governmental organizations in Gaza amidst attempts by the de facto authorities to impose restrictions. In May, Mr. Serry facilitated the performance of a classical music concert by UN Messenger for Peace Daniel Barenboim. The gesture of peace and solidarity touched people both within and outside of Gaza.

Regional impact

In May and June, violent clashes occurred between Israeli forces and Palestinians living in Lebanon and Syria along the Blue Line in the occupied Syrian Golan.

As regional peace and security is increasingly challenged by such inter-connected incidents, coordination efforts between UN political and peacekeeping operations and UN Country Teams in the Middle East were stepped up. In June, Mr. Serry organized a meeting of the various UN presences in the region to address these challenges.

As regional dynamics remain volatile, particularly with the escalating political and human rights crisis in Syria, efforts continued to support the fundamental rights and needs of the people across the region.

In this difficult context, pushing for a just and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians will remain a key challenge and objective of UNSCO in 2012.

UNSCOL

Calming a volatile environment

Despite a number of serious political and security challenges during 2011, Lebanon successfully maintainined general stability and a relative degree of calm. The Office of the Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL) contributed to this by engaging with all sides in the country to assist in calming tensions and maintaining the cessation of hostilities between Lebanon and Israel, in line with the Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006).

The Special Coordinator also continued to carry out good offices work on behalf of the Secretary-General by assisting Lebanese parties to reach consensus-based solutions to contentious issues.

Addressing challenges

At the beginning of the year, Prime Minister Saad Hariri's government of national unity collapsed, leaving a political vacuum for almost five months. Throughout this period of uncertainty, Special Coordinator Michael Williams, who represented the UN Secretary-General in Lebanon until the end of his tenure in October 2011, stressed the need for a Government that could "ensure the stability and security of Lebanon and fulfill the needs of its citizens". A new Government, consisting largely of parties from the 8 March coalition, was formed by Prime Minister Najib Mikati in June. It has since managed to make progress on a number of key areas, including a plan to solve Lebanon's longstanding electricity shortages and establishing a legal framework to allow the exploitation of potential oil and gas reserves located offshore in the Mediterranean.

One of the most challenging issues for Lebanon during 2011 was its relationship with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL), an international tribunal established under Security Council resolution 1757 (2007)

UN Special Coordinator Michael Williams meets Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati in Beirut. Beirut, Lebanon, 22 February 2011. (UN Photo/Dalati and Nohra)

to bring to justice those responsible for the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and others. Tensions over the STL reached a climax in June 2011 with the indictment of four individuals allegedly affiliated with Hezbullah. Special Coordinator Williams actively reached out to all Lebanese parties, encouraging them to maintain calm and stability and to enable Lebanon to meet all its international obligations, irrespective of the views of individual parties on the STL. But in late November, amidst renewed political tension, Prime Minister Mikati announced that he had transferred Lebanon's share of the STL's budget, in accordance with Lebanon's international obligations. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Deputy Special Coordinator and UNSCOL Officer-in-Charge Robert Watkins, welcomed this important step.

Testing the climate

In addition to helping maintain Lebanon's domestic stability, UNSCOL was concerned with how the regional climate might affect the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006). Clashes along the Blue Line between a number of Palestinian demonstrators and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on 15 May resulted in the death of several Palestinians. Stability along the Blue Line was also tested by two rocket-firing incidents from south Lebanon into Israel later in the year.

Encouraging dialogue throughout Lebanon's diverse communities remains at the heart of UNSCOL's efforts

Most disconcertingly, there were three attacks on patrols of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in May, July and December 2011, raising concerns over the safety and security of UN peacekeepers. Meeting with both Israeli and Lebanese interlocutors, Special Coordinator Williams, Deputy Watkins and UNIFIL Force Commander General Alberto Asarta Cuevas, worked in close coordination to return security to south Lebanon.

Coordinating UNCT work

As mandated by the Secretary-General, UNSCOL also continued to coordinate all aspects of the UN work in Lebanon and to provide political guidance to the UN Country Team.

UNSCOL has worked with the 24 agencies, funds and programmes represented in Lebanon to ensure the UN family's help in developing the country's political and security environment and also in attaining socio-economic development and prosperity, full respect for human rights,

The Secretary-General welcomed Lebanon transfering its share of STL budget in November 2011

and improved conditions for some 400,000 Palestinians living in 12 official refugee camps in the country. UNSCOL Officer-in-Charge Watkins continued to improve senior-level cooperation and coordination with the Government of Lebanon through the offices of the President of the Republic, Prime Minister and Speaker.

Encouraging dialogue throughout Lebanon's diverse communities and promoting the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) will remain at the heart of UNSCOL's efforts in the year ahead.

UNIFIL

Simple instructions save lives

Two years ago, instructions given by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) saved Hussein Abu Raya's life.

The 15-year-old school dropout used the skills he learned from a mine and cluster bomb awareness session by UNIFIL instructors to escape becoming a victim of the many thousands of unexploded ordnance (UXO) strewn over many parts of south Lebanon, almost five years after the end of the conflict.

The incident happened near the village of Hinniyeh one morning when Hussein set out, as usual, on his old motorcycle headed to work in the neighbouring town of Qlayleh. As he manoeuvred his way slowly along a side road snaking amid citrus and banana groves, he spotted a strange object at the side of the road.

The boy pulled over and carefully approached the spot. "When I saw the white tape on which the body was suspended, I became certain that it was a cluster bomb", he recalled.

Hussein quickly stepped back, jumped on his motorbike and headed out to the main road. He bumped into a UNIFIL Italian patrol that happened to be passing by.

He hailed the troops who spoke no Arabic. He pointed with his hand to the place of the bomb, shouting, "Bam Bam Bam". Motioning the peacekeepers to follow him, he was able to lead the troops to the location.

"What if these peacekeepers do not possess enough equipment to dismantle the bomb or set it off", Hussein thought. Worried about what might happen next, Hussein headed to the nearest Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) position on the outskirts of Hinniyeh and informed the soldiers about what he had seen.

The local commander dispatched a patrol, which teamed up with the UNIFIL unit to seal off the area and detonate a number of cluster bombs found there.

Hussein managed to distinguish the cluster bomb thanks to the information he picked up from the awareness session provided by UNIFIL.

Instructions not to approach cluster bombs and mines saved a boy's life

Speaking outside his family home in Hinniyeh, Hussein said two years ago, when he was still attending school, LAF and UNIFIL would make periodic visits to explain to students the dangers of cluster bombs and mines that were strewn throughout the countryside from the 2006 war.

Hussein Abu Raya at the cluster bomb discovery area. Hinniyeh, Lebanon, 14 December 2011. (UN Photo/Pasquat Gorriz Marcos)

"I still remember how the interpreter was strictly telling us: 'Do not approach. Do not touch. Inform the nearest LAF or UNIFIL position'", he recalled.

While Hussein was repeating the interpreter's instructions, his four older brothers echoed the same phrase just like a chorus: "Do not approach. Do not touch. Inform the nearest LAF or UNIFIL position".

Hussein said that when he spotted the bomb that morning, he clearly remembered the instructions he learned at school.

Demining

Mine infestation remains a challenge in southern Lebanon, where UXO, particularly cluster munitions left over from the 2006 conflict, have claimed 28 civilian lives and 263 civilian injuries in the area since the end of the war. Furthermore, during mine clearance operations 14 de-miners, including two from UNIFIL, have been killed and 49 injured, including five UNIFIL de-miners.

Since 2006, UNIFIL demining teams have contributed to demining around 4.8 million square metres of affected land and have destroyed more than 34,000 UXO and mines in southern Lebanon. Additionally, UNIFIL regularly conducts activities aimed at raising public awareness of the dangers of explosive remnants of war.

Facing the dangers of cluster bombs is just part of Hussein's tragic upbringing. He was born a refugee to Palestinian parents who settled in Hinniyeh, north-east of Naqoura, in southernmost Lebanon. Hussein had to drop out of school to work to support his family and help pay for medical treatment for his father's work-related eye injury. Hussein's four brothers also dropped out of school and moved into the work force. His two sisters, unable to continue their education, opted to marry and move out. Due to pressing needs, Hussein ended up working with his brothers in a pit, turning timber and branches into charcoal for domestic use.

His face blackened by soot, Hussein said he also picked up some information on cluster bombs and mines from his elder brother, Ali, who works for a Norwegian mine clearance team in southern Lebanon. He said Ali always brought home awareness publications and explained to his brothers how to act if they spotted any strange objects.

Although Hussein dropped out of school at an early age, when the peacekeepers explained the dangers of bombs, Hussein proved that he deserved a chance to continue his studies. The pictures and words that he saw and heard in the awareness session stuck in his memory, and the result was that his life and that of others were saved.

UNIFIL Peacekeeper demines near the Blue Line demarcating the Israeli-Lebanese border. Maroon Al-Rass, Lebanon, 23 April 2011 (UN Photo/Pasqual Gorriz)

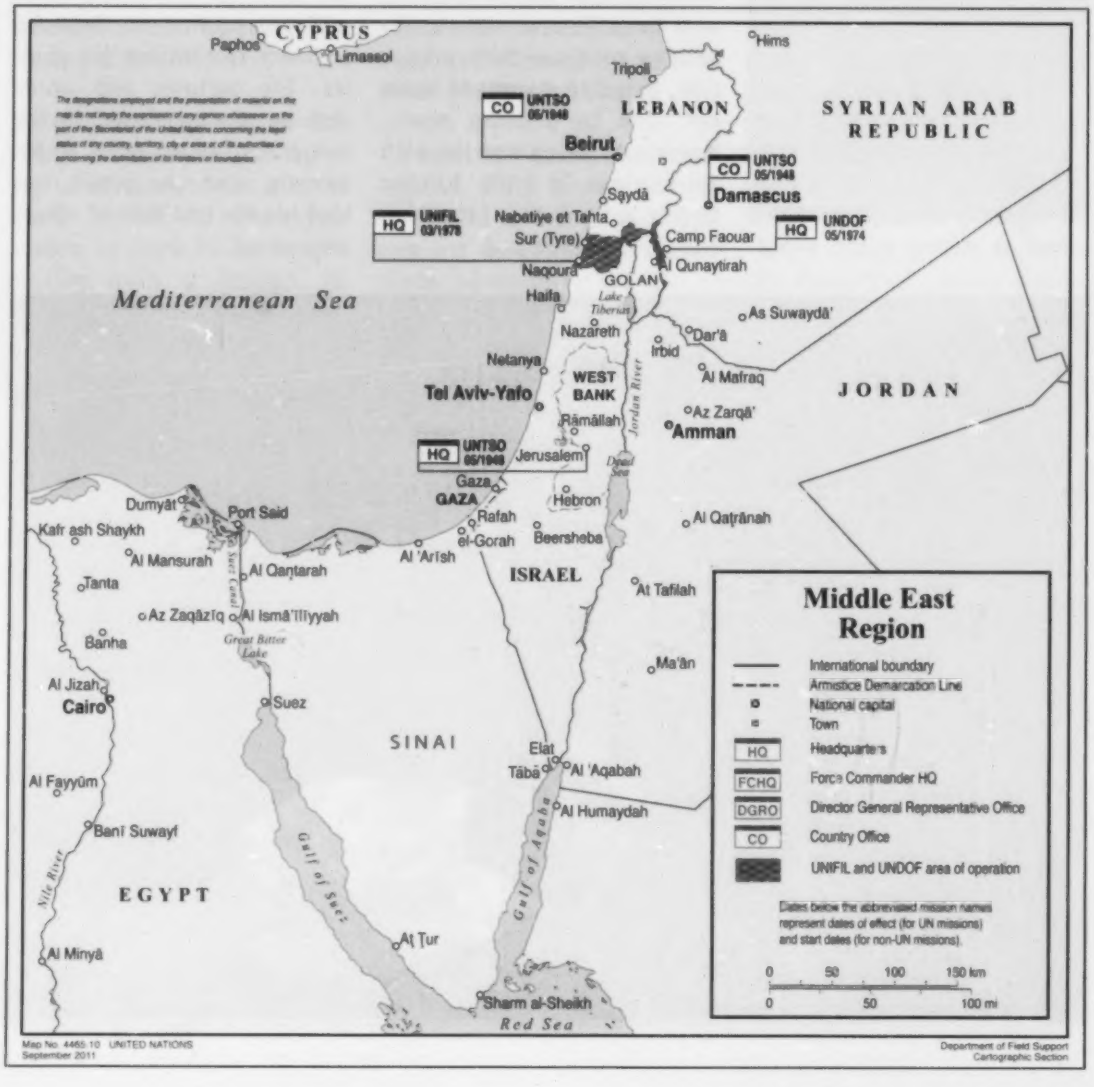
UNDOF

Thirty-seven years of engagement

The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was established by Security Council resolution 350 on 31 May 1974 and its mandate has been renewed biannually ever since.

The mission maintains the Israeli-Syrian ceasefire on the Golan, supervises the parties' compliance with the terms of the Disengagement Agreement and oversees the areas of separation and limitation between both forces as provided in the Agreement. The Observer Group Golan (OGG), composed of military observers from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), assists UNDOF in implementing its mandate.

As of 31 December 2011, the 1,043 troops of UNDOF comprises 378 from Austria, 346 from the Philippines, 190 from India, 95 from Croatia, 31 from Japan and 3 from Canada, as well as 144 national and international civilian employees. Fifteen personnel are employed by Japan in the capacity of national support. In addition, 76 military observers from UNTSO assist the force in carrying out its tasks.



Throughout the year, the ceasefire was maintained and UNDOF's area of operation remained generally quiet. However, anti-Government demonstrations occurred in several villages in the area of limitation on the Syrian (Bravo) side.

By means of fixed positions and patrols, UNDOF supervised the area of separation to exclude military forces of either party. Additionally, OGG carried out fortnightly inspections of equipment and force levels within areas of limitation.

UNDOF peacekeepers consult a map while on patrol in the area of operation. Golan Heights, Syria, 26 August 2011. (UN Photo/Wolfgang Grebien)

Restrictions on freedom of movement

Both sides continued to deny inspection teams access to some of their positions, as well as to impose restrictions on the force's freedom of movement. From late April through December, OGG teams encountered restrictions of movement in the southern and central parts of the area of limitation on the Syrian side. Syrian authorities denied access, ostensibly for reasons of safety and security of the military observers.

Major incidents occurred in UNDOF's area of operation on 15 May and 5 June, when demonstrations commemorating the anniversaries of "Al-Nakba" and "An-Naksa", respectively, resulted in civilian casualties and put the long-held ceasefire in jeopardy.

Assisting on the ground

UNDOF continued to assist the International Committee of the Red Cross with the passage of civilians through the area of separation, mainly pilgrims, students and humanitarian crossings and provided medical treatment to civilians.

UNTSO

UNTSO: A stabilizing presence

The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was established in 1948 to supervise the truce between Israel and its Arab neighbours: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Among other obligations, UNTSO maintains engagement with the parties to the 1949 Armistice Agreements and continues to deploy trained and skilled military observers to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) to support the implementation of the missions' mandates.

Consistent with its regional mandate, UNTSO continued to maintain liaison offices in Beirut, Lebanon, Damascus, Syria, and, at the request of the Government of Egypt, Ismailia.

Since May, Head of Mission and Chief of Staff Major-General Juha Kilpiä of Finland has maintained relations with military and political authorities in the region. This offers him a regional perspective on domestic and regional developments that may impact on the status and the work of UN peacekeeping and other operations in the Middle East.

UNAMI

At a crossroads: Challenges and opportunities

The withdrawal of the United States Forces in Iraq was one of the most significant developments in 2011, opening a new phase in the country's recent history.

While Iraq regains full sovereignty, the country continued to face numerous challenges throughout the year, including with national reconciliation, economic development and delivery of social services, human rights, security and governance. During 2011, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) focused on facilitating political dialogue, promoting human rights and the rule of law, as well as building the capacity of Iraq's electoral system and supporting the country's development priorities.

At the political level, however, several contentious issues remained unresolved, such as Government formation, issues related to Disputed Internal Boundaries (DIBs), including the status of Kirkuk, and the need for Iraq to fulfill its outstanding Security Council resolutions' obligations pertaining to Kuwait.

Fostering dialogue

In response to these challenges, in March 2011, UNAMI established a Standing Consultative Mechanism (SCM) with representatives from the three main political blocs to address outstanding issues.

Throughout the year, SCM members discussed power-sharing, preparing the way for provincial elections in Kirkuk and the

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq Martin Kobler (left) meets with Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs Hoshyar Zebari. Baghdad, Iraq, 9 October 2011. (UN Photo)

holding of a national census. It also considered the future of the Combined Security Mechanism (CSM), whereby, through joint checkpoints and patrol, Iraqi Government security forces, Kurdish security forces and United States troops jointly supervised disputed areas.

Building the capacity of Iraq's electoral system was yet another focus area of the mission. UNAMI led UN efforts to strengthen the professional aptitude of Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission. Most notably, it advised the Council of Representatives on the selection process for new commissioners, facilitating future electoral processes and enhancing transparency and credibility.

Technical advisors supported key areas, including preparing and managing electoral events, legally resolving electoral disputes and conducting security and public outreach.

On human rights, despite some improvement, UNAMI remained concerned about armed violence, administration of justice and law enforcement, impunity, freedom of expression, women's and children's rights and attacks against minorities.

To address these concerns, UNAMI assisted the Government in establishing an Iraqi Independent High Commission for Human Rights. While the law establishing the Commission was passed in 2008, it has not been implemented. In 2011, UNAMI and other international partners continued to advocate for its full implementation.

The mission also facilitated a consultative process with national and international stakeholders and human rights experts on the National Action Plan on Human Rights, which encapsulates key recommendations agreed to by consensus.

In 2011, UNAMI also continued to foster dialogue on the rights of Iraq's various communities through such activities as the forum on "Legislative Framework for the Protection of the Rights of the Ethnic and Religious Communities/Components in Iraq".

Supporting people

Another highlight was Iraq's first United Nations Development Assistance Framework. This key development document focuses on governance and human rights, inclusive economic growth, essential services delivery, the environment and empowering women, children and youth.

UNAMI and the UN Country Team continued to work together on social safety nets, integrated water resource management and conducting census and civil registration.

With the closure of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Iraq, the mission took on a greater role in humanitarian issues, emphasizing civilian protection, the status of internally displaced persons and border monitoring.

For DIBs, UNAMI and the UN Country Team developed a joint strategy for integrated humanitarian and development interventions that targeted vulnerable populations in those disputed areas.

In the South, UNAMI helped bring together key stakeholders for a national conference on the Iraqi marshlands. The adoption of the "Basrah Declaration", or the National Action Plan for the Marshlands, forms the basis for future revitalization of this part of Iraq's ecosystem and heritage.

Building the capacity of Iraq's electoral system was another focus of the mission

Despite numerous gains, obstacles remain to a stable and prosperous future for Iraqis. The challenges ahead are complex and multifaceted. Martin Kobler, the Special Representative for the Secretary-General and new Head of UNAMI said, "while challenges may lie ahead, the departure of United States forces will mark an opportunity for all Iraqis to come together and build the Iraq that they can all be proud of".

In October, Mr. Kobler of Germany replaced Mr. Ad Melkert of the Netherlands, who had served in Iraq since July 2009.

UNSMIL

Building a new country

Students participating in the first human rights workshop organized by the United Nations in Libya. Tripoli, Libya, 21 December 2011. (UN Photo)

The aftermath of the conflict in Libya left a daunting set of responsibilities resting on the shoulders of the country's new authorities. These include: providing public security and employing former revolutionary fighters; organizing elections and drafting a new constitution; creating a professional military and rebuilding its police force; addressing the human rights crimes of Libya's past while promoting national reconciliation; controlling the spread of weapons; and revitalizing Libya's oil-based economy.

Interim authorities have strongly emphasized to the international community that the Libyans themselves will lead the rebuilding effort. At the same time, they have reached out to the United Nations to provide support and expertise in a number of these areas, and to help coordinate outside assistance.

Mission deployed

The UN efforts on the ground are led by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), a political mission managed by the Department of Political Affairs. Since its deployment in September 2011, just weeks after the fall of Tripoli, the mission, under the leadership of veteran UN envoy Ian Martin, has been gradually stepping up its assistance in many realms. The pace and intensity of the mission's work is expected to increase further in 2012, while still carried out by a relatively light civilian presence.

Martin, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Libya, led the extensive UN post-conflict planning for Libya, and was in attendance when the country's "liberation" was declared on 23 October. Since that momentous event, marking the end of the fighting and beginning of the post-conflict phase, important progress has been made.

The formation of an Interim Government and cabinet headed by Prime Minister Dr. Abdurrahim El-Keib constituted an early milestone in the detailed transitional political process envisioned by Libya's new authorities.

Concrete steps were also taken toward forming a national army and police force to maintain public security and guard Libya's vast borders. The National Transitional Council (NTC) and Interim Government convened the first national reconciliation conference in December 2011, and had begun drafting proposals on transitional justice.

While significant economic policy decisions will not likely be made until after elections and many challenges remain, economic chaos has been averted, and recovery from the collapse in oil production has been faster than initially foreseen.

Obstacles ahead

Still, numerous hurdles remain and public expectations are mounting.

Tensions have run high over the presence of militias in the streets, pending the integration of some 75,000 former fighters into the government security forces or civilian life.

As the year drew to a close, disparate groups who had fought in the struggle against Colonel Qaddafi remained in control of key areas of the country. UNSMIL prepared support to Libya's leaders in this area, drawing on the considerable experience of the UN in such matters.

Elections are another huge challenge. After four decades under strongman rule, Libya has virtually no modern experience in holding democratic polls.

UNSMIL has worked closely with the new authorities to provide advice on drafting electoral legislation and on establishing an electoral commission. If credible elections for a national congress are to be held by June 2012, issues such as the choice of electoral system, the eligibility of candidates, voter lists and possible special measures for women and other groups will first have to be settled.

In December, the Security Council expanded UNSMIL's mandate to include assisting and supporting Libyan national efforts to address the proliferation of arms, ammunition and explosive remnants of war. The change reflected concerns both internationally and within the region that weapons — including man-portable surface to air missiles, or MANPADs — could fall into dangerous hands.

The mission has also encouraged prompt action by the international community to free up billions of dollars in Libyan assets that had been frozen as a measure against the former regime. This liquidity is critically needed by Libya's authorities to address the many post-war challenges they face.

Humanitarian efforts

UNSMIL has also kept a close eye on the plight of detainees and the treatment of migrant workers, urging the improvement of detention conditions and a proper and swift review of all cases, leading to release or fair trial.

In visits to cities that suffered during the war, among them Misrata, Zawiyah, Zintan and Yefren, as well as Benghazi, where the revolution was sparked on 17 February 2011, SRSG Martin has met with Libyans from a broad spectrum of society. He has emphasized the importance of civil society's role and the empowerment and inclusion of women, while stressing that UN assistance will be guided by national priorities.

Building an inclusive democracy in Libya will take time and patience, but Libyans have shown they have the wherewithal to succeed.

This article was adapted from the UN Department of Political Affairs newsletter Politically Speaking.

UNMIT

Planning the withdrawal

Timor-Leste saw a number of encouraging developments over the past year. On 27 March, in a key event, the national police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) resumed responsibility for the conduct, command and control of all police operations in the country. The police role of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) has since focused on providing further support for institutional development and PNTL capacity-building, based on the PNTL-UNMIT Police Joint Development Plan. However, it maintains a capacity to provide operational support, if required and requested, including during the 2012 electoral period. It is reassuring that, following the PNTL's resumption of policing responsibilities, the overall low crime rate has remained largely unchanged, and general stability and calm have prevailed throughout the country.

With intense campaigning and rising tensions, the upcoming 2012 presidential and parliamentary elections, could pose a test for the PNTL, which continues to face logistical constraints. It is, however, encouraging that Timorese leaders have continued to engage in dialogue. It is noteworthy that at an important dialogue initiative ("Maubisse II") facilitated by the Bishop of Baucau on 26 July 2011, political leaders agreed on the importance of ensuring stability during the electoral process. Concerning preparations for the 2012 elections, significant progress has been made by the national electoral management bodies, with integrated assistance from UNMIT and the United Nations country team.

Parliament continued to serve as a vital forum for democratic debate. On 28 January, after two weeks of debate, it approved the 2011 State budget of $1.3 billion. On 11 July, Parliament also approved the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan for 2011-2030, which sets out economic growth and poverty reduction strategies covering the vital areas of social capital,

UN Police and their national counterparts conduct a foot patrol in Makadade on market day. Ataurо, Timor-Leste, 24 August 2011. (UN Photo/Martine Perret)

infrastructure and economic development.

In the justice sector, progress continued to be made in transitioning international legal actors from their operational functions to advisory roles. An additional four national judges (one woman), five public defenders and five prosecutors were sworn in on 16 May 2011, raising the total to 25 judges (five women), 21 prosecutors (five women) and 18 public defenders (three women). Under the supervision of the Office of the Prosecutor-General, the UNMIT Serious Crimes Investigation Team continued its investigations into cases relating to crimes against humanity and other serious crimes committed between 1 January and 25 October 1999.

Planning the withdrawal

Given the generally calm security situation, positive political climate and commitment to a peaceful electoral process, UNMIT, jointly with the Government, has been proceeding with the transition process, planning for the Mission's expected departure by the end of 2012.

As agreed at the 2 February 2011 meeting of the High-level Committee on Transition (including, among others, Government and UNMIT representatives), in February 2011 seven joint technical working groups (composed of Government and United Nations focal points) began to develop a joint transition plan. The working groups identified, inter alia, specific action to be taken in the plan's seven focus areas (i.e. police and security; justice, rule of law and human rights; democratic governance; socio-economic development; Mission support and logistics; training for Timorese staff; and impact on the local economy) until the completion of the UNMIT mandate, on the basis of Government priorities. In addition, the working groups identified what support currently provided by UNMIT would be needed beyond the anticipated end of its mandate, and possible arrangements for handover to State institutions, bilateral and multilateral partners, the United Nations country team or other entities.

To suppot future employment, UNMIT is training more than 900 national staff

At its meeting on 19 September 2011, the High-level Committee approved the Joint Transition Plan, which was then signed by President José Manuel Ramos-Horta, Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIT, Ms. Ameerah Haq. The Plan builds on the strong partnership between Timor-Leste and the United Nations – a partnership that began with the country's struggle for self-determination and the historic popular consultation in 1999, and continued with UN support as the Timorese people worked to consolidate peace and security and build strong and effective national institutions.

To optimize efforts during the remaining period ahead, UNMIT will continue to focus, in each of its mandated areas, on the priority needs and activities identified jointly with the Government in the context of the Joint Transition Plan, which is being regularly reviewed in light of ongoing developments.

In order to enhance the skills of its national staff so that they have greater employment prospects after the Mission's withdrawal, UNMIT is implementing a multi-phase capacity-building programme providing training to more than 900 national staff. Some of these training activities have also been extended to staff in Government or other national institutions.

In the meantime, consultations between the Government, the United Nations and other key international and national stakeholders are continuing on the various options for a United Nations presence in Timor-Leste following UNMIT's departure.

UNAMA

Successes and challenges in a year of transition

Staff at a UNAMA ceremony in Kabul mourn seven colleagues killed in Mazar-i-Sharif on 1 April. Kabul, Afghanistan, 5 April 2011. (UN Photo/Eric Kanalstein)

Despite serious challenges, including the attack in Mazar-i-Sharif, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) contributed to creating a political environment conducive to strengthening the Afghanistan Government.

Key developments over 2011 included the 17 July start of the transfer of security responsibility to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). Gradually, ANSF will take charge of protecting a number of provinces, including Bamyan, Parwan, Balkh, Herat, and Samangan and parts of Nangahar, Kabul, and Helmand, among others. By the end of 2011, 51 per cent of the population should be under the protection of the Afghan police and army.

On 26 January 2011, the newly elected Wolesi Jirga, or Lower House of Parliament, was inaugurated — four months after the 2010 elections. Continuing disagreement over election results, however, impeded its work until a final resolution was agreed to on 8 October.

Combating violence

Insecurity remains the greatest challenge in the country, with Afghan civilians continuing to bear the brunt of the violence. Mid-year, UNAMA documented a 15 per cent increase in conflict-related civilian deaths compared to the same period in 2010. This was mainly due to landmine-like improvised explosive devices.

"All civilian deaths and injuries, no matter what party is responsible, have tragic and lasting impacts on families and communities", said Staffan de Mistura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Afghanistan from February 2010 to December 2011. "Civilians will only 'win' in Afghanistan when civilian casualties decrease across the board".

The violence also targeted high-ranking Government officials. The head of the High Peace Council, Burhanuddin Rabbani, was among those killed in the campaign of

intimidation, casting a shadow over peace prospects with the Taliban and other insurgents.

In October, the UNAMA Human Rights Unit reported on the use of torture, which led to quick action by the Government, National Directorate of Security and the national police. In November, it released a follow-up to the harmful traditional practices report on the use of the Elimination of Violence against Women Law, urging increased advocacy and monitoring by police, prosecutors and judges.

Early in the year, the Government and the United Nations signed a Security Council-endorsed Action Plan for Children in Armed Conflict, aimed at ending ANSF recruitment and use of children, as well as other violations, such as sexual violence, attacks against schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access.

Supporting development

An ongoing drought prompted the revision on 2 October of the 2011 Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP), led by the UN Country Team, to include $142 million for immediate assistance to affected people through September 2012.

Strengthening provincial politics

"The UN political mission has a history in Afghanistan. UNAMA played an extremely important role in laying the foundation of a government after 2001", said Shekiba Shekib, the Secretary of the Balkh Provincial Council. "Afghanistan has an elected government, cabinet, parliament and provincial councils — all the essentials of a democratic system. None of that would have been possible without the UN political mission".

The 39-year-old schoolteacher continued, "UNAMA is constantly in touch with us and has launched several projects to support transparency and accountability, not only in Mazar-i-Sharif but across the country".

UNAMA's Governance Unit works with provincial councils to identify gaps, liaise with donors and other stakeholders, such as the UNDP/Afghanistan Sub-national Governance Programme, and links councils with government and non-government counterparts, including civil society organizations and the Afghan citizens themselves.

"Women Face to Face with Elected Representatives", one of the main projects in the Jawzjan province, allowed female constituents to speak directly to council members and other local authorities.

Secretary of the Balkh Provincial Council Shekiba Shekib in her office. Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan, 29 November 2011. (UNAMA/Sayed Barez)

Shekib said that she was optimistic that those efforts were helping Afghans feel that they "belonged" to their provincial councils.

"Six years ago people barely knew what the provincial council was, but now we are much closer to the people".

Shekib also expressed condolences for the loss of UN staff members in the April attack in Mazar. "The murder of innocent UN staff members does not represent the people of Mazar-i Sharif", she said.

To deliver simultaneous humanitarian and development support, UNAMA and the UN Country Team devised an Integrated Strategic Framework with the main priorities of dialogue and peace; protecting and promoting human rights; sub-national governance and the rule of law; maternal and newborn health; and sustainable livelihoods.

The National Priority Programmes also focused on these particular areas to bring tangible, sustainable benefits to Afghans by investing in their own institutions.

In October and again in November, the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) added its weight by unanimously endorsing nine new National Priority Programmes on socio-economic development, governance and monitoring and promoting human rights. The JCMB is co-chaired by UNAMA and the Afghan Government with representation from all donors. In spite of the controversy surrounding the Kabul Bank, Parliament's approval to provide capital to the Central Bank, a central precondition for the approval of an International Monetary Fund programme, opened the door to fresh engagement with donors.

In November, an international meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, reaffirmed regional cooperation on security and economic development.

On 5 December, the International Conference on Afghanistan in Bonn, Germany, held under the theme "From Transition to Transformation", was attended by some 100 countries and organizations. The conference reaffirmed the United Nations' crucial role in Afghanistan, as well as the international community's political commitment to assist the country throughout the transition period and beyond 2014.

For the United Nations, that commitment came at a personal cost last year with an attack on the UNAMA operations centre in Mazar-i-Sharif. On 1 April, three international UN staff were killed, as were four Nepalese guards who, holding their fire, were overwhelmed by the crowd. On 31 October, three staff members from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees were killed in Kandahar, along with two security guards.

At the helm

Ján Kubiš took over from Staffan de Mistura as SRSG for UNAMA at the end of 2011. At the request of the Government of Afghanistan, UNAMA's mandated activities and UN support in Afghanistan are currently under review by the UN Security Council.

UN staff continue successfully to undertake more ambitious plans, garnering praise from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for their "tireless efforts under very challenging conditions".

Child Protection Advisor Dee Brillenburg Wurth and UNAMA National Spokeswoman Nilab Mobarez at TABISH, an NGO that provides psychosocial support to children traumatized by conflict. Kabul, Afghanistan, 5 June 2011. (UN Photo)

UNRCCA

Implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Throughout 2011, Central Asia continued to face endemic regional challenges of international terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime and environmental degradation. With overarching links to religious extremism, drug trafficking and trans-national commerce in illicit arms, terrorism has emerged as a dangerous threat to peace, democracy and development.

While Central Asia has been spared thus far from large-scale terrorist attacks, concern abounds that instability in neighbouring Afghanistan may influence extremist groups and organized local crime networks to intensify their activities. Moreover, domestic political and economic grievances have created fertile ground for home-grown extremists bolstered from abroad.

To support national authorities in addressing the threat of terrorism, the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) has carried out a range of activities based on its three-year Programme of Action.

To create conditions that would prevent and eliminate terrorism, the evolving nature of the threat is considered, as is the need to cooperate with relevant United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), regional organizations and Central Asian authorities.

Joint Plan of Action

UNRCCA has been chosen to carry out a project of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the European Union (EU), which is co-funded by the EU and the Government of Norway. The project aims to help the regional countries devise a cooperative and comprehensive Joint Plan of Action for Central Asia.

The Joint Plan of Action and the Final Declaration supporting it were endorsed on 30 November by a high-level meeting in Ashgabat. Representatives of Central Asian States, Russia, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, India, Iran, Norway, Pakistan, Turkey, the United States and senior UN and EU officials participated.

The plan is the first regional approach addressing terrorism through the Counter-Terrorism strategy and strengthened international partnerships.

High-level meeting endorsing the regional partnerships plan to address terrorist threats. Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 30 November 2011. (UN Photo)

The Four Pillars

Based on recommendations from three expert meetings, some 60 specialists representing relevant regional stakeholders held discussions on the different pillars of the Counter-Terrorism strategy.

In December 2010, a meeting on conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism (Pillar I) and measures to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism (Pillar IV) were discussed in Bratislava.

From 29 to 30 March, measures that states should undertake to prevent and combat terrorism (Pillar II) were discussed in Dushanbe, and states' capacity-building measures to prevent and combat terrorism and strengthen the UN system role (Pillar III) were scrutinized in Almaty, Kazakhstan in July.

The expert meetings were unique in that they brought together a broad range of stakeholders across countries and organizations, while opening up a counter-terrorism dialogue at the national level involving traditional actors, such as national security and prosecutors' offices as well as Government officials on issues of religion, ethnicity, human rights and development, and financial monitoring.

Challenges discussed

A number of challenges were raised during the meetings. They included: latent conflicts, drug trafficking, socio-economic grievances emanating from social exclusion, inequalities and marginalization, human rights violations, poor governance and tension between and within religious groups. Consequently, the region is fertile ground for radicalization that could manifest as political extremism, religious fundamentalism or terrorism. External factors, namely instability in Afghanistan and increasing threats in the tribal borders of Pakistan, also impact on the spread of terrorism in the region.

Needs assessed

While Central Asian states have ratified most of the international anti-terrorism instruments, support is still necessary to implement the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

The project led to new regional dialogues with ripple effects for cooperation in Central Asia

Discussions revealed the need for national capacity-building in revising relevant legislative frameworks, implementing technical control and monitoring mechanisms, combating terrorist internet use, preventing terrorism financing, improving cooperation to combat illicit trafficking in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons and materials, as well as strengthening the positive roles of media, the education system and civil society in fighting terrorism.

Overall, the project led to new dialogues across regional governments and institutions with ripple effects for cooperation in Central Asia. It also yielded a broad consensus among regional stakeholders that comprehensive and long-term measures were needed to effectively battle terrorism.

A meeting with regional organizations is planned for the spring of 2012 to discuss the Joint Plan of Action and follow-up activities.

UNRCCA and UNCTs on the ground place their counter-terrorism actions within the broader framework of overall UN efforts promoting peace, security, sustainable development, human rights and the rule of law. For example, the UN peacebuilding strategy in Kyrgyzstan is implemented through a series of projects aimed at preventing a relapse into violence and promoting the rule of law and stability, which are core terrorism-prevention conditions.

Moreover, UNRCCA's role in providing political guidance for preventing, settling and stemming conflicts from spreading across borders contributes to the overall objective of peace, stability and security in Central Asia.

MINUSTAH

Haiti Presidental election winner Michel Martelly greets jubilant crowds in the capital, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 5 April 2011. (UN Photo/Logan Abassi)

Rising from the rubble

While Haiti's 2010 earthquake was a catastrophic event, it did not fundamentally alter the country's path to stability and development or the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti's (MINUSTAH) strategic outlook.

The earthquake did, however, prove the mission's ability to follow one of Dag Hammarskjöld's principles: "Never look down to test the ground before taking your next step; only he who keeps his eye fixed on the far horizon will find the right road". MINUSTAH never lost sight of a navigation point on the horizon, though it was obscured behind heaps of rubble stretching across Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, and other major cities.
A three-year consolidation plan, which the Security Council had approved in 2008 to set the Mission on the path of withdrawal, was put on hold as a temporary surge effort became necessary to swiftly address emerging threats to security and political stability.

MINUSTAH marked the start of 2011 with new offices in prefabricated modules built in its former logistics base. The site had become the nerve center after the Christopher Hotel headquarters was destroyed by the earthquake that claimed the lives of 102 UN colleagues.

A revised mission organization table, sketched on a worn-out flipchart, was stuck on the wall of an improvised office for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General after the earthquake. It was a telling reminder of the fast-paced environment in which policy planning decisions for the surge were taken.

Adding another dimension of complexity, the surge was expected to be sufficiently large but reasonably brief—lasting approximately two years—to ensure that the increased numbers of peacekeepers would not become counterproductive to the UN's efforts to help the Haitian Government and National Police assume responsibility for security in the country.

Meanwhile, the streets of Port-au-Prince and other major cities became the scene of many protests against alleged fraud in the first round of presidential and legislative elections held in November 2010. After a wrenching electoral process that lasted until April 2011, the first peaceful transition from one democratically elected president to another transpired. However, a nearly five-month political crisis

MINUSTAH helps disenfranchised women across Port au Prince. Cite Soleil, Haiti, 17 August 2011. (UN Photo/Logan Abassi)

ensued over the appointment of a Government.

It was an early sign of the difficulties ahead for the new administration to build consensus in a divided Parliament on national priorities such as reconstruction, rule of law, security sector reform (notably the development of the Haitian National Police), elections and constitutional reforms.

Against this volatile backdrop, a spreading cholera epidemic added new challenges to ongoing recovery efforts. A plan announced by the new Haitian President Michel Martelly to create a second security force brought back memories of the former Haitian Armed Forces, which was disbanded in 1995 after years of military interference in politics.

Strategic priorities

Balancing the need to deal with multiple crises and the commitment to a short-term surge was a fine line to walk. To do so, the Mission pursued three strategic priorities.

Firstly, it focused its efforts toward facilitating a political agreement between the executive and legislative branches on a concrete agenda in critical areas, such as security, rule of law, recovery, development, electoral and constitutional reform.

Secondly, effort was made to build sustainable national capacity to maintain the rule of law, protect human rights and organize elections with even less external assistance.

Lastly, the Secretary-General recommended a partial drawdown of MINUSTAH's military and police capabilities by mid-2012, leading to the Security Council's decision in October to reduce the force's strength to the pre-earthquake levels. The Secretary-General also recommended a reconfiguration of the force so as to withdraw troops from four regions deemed to be at a lower risk of instability. After nearly eight years of military deployment in all of Haiti's 10 departments, this move was a reflection of the radically changed conditions since 2004. Meanwhile, plans were being developed to draw down, by July 2012, most of the civilian capacities authorized by the General Assembly to meet the immediate needs of the mission after the earthquake.

If the situation in Haiti remains stable, this partial withdrawal of military, police and civilian surge capacities will be the first step towards reconfiguring the mission, and a precursor to phase out MINUSTAH's presence in low-risk departments, where security conditions would allow State institutions to exercise their responsibilities for the maintenance of stability and security without the mission's operational support.

UNFICYP

"Peacing" the island together

As articulated by the Secretary-General, a comprehensive settlement to reunite Cyprus on the basis of a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation would help unleash the island's considerable potential and capacity, making it a stronger and more prosperous home for all of its citizens. In 2011, the Cyprus peace talks registered some progress in achieving convergence on outstanding core issues. The Secretary-General met with Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Derviş Eroğlu several times throughout the year.

They agreed to enhance the United Nations role and to move in the second half of the year to an intensified phase. While considerable advances were made in some areas, including governance and power-sharing, the economy and internal aspects of security, less was achieved on property, territory and citizenship matters.

From 30 to 31 October, both sides and the Secretary-General met in Greentree, New York, where they assessed negotiation results and their proximity to a solution. Although some encouraging progress was made, much remains to be done. Nevertheless, both leaders affirmed their belief that a settlement was within reach. Their stated conviction led the Secretary-General to ask the leaders for a January 2012 meeting, again in Greentree.

The buffer zone

As the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) continued to maintain the integrity and stability of the buffer zone, the total number of military violations decreased. Cooperation between UNFICYP and the two opposing forces remained good, reflecting a positive working relationship with the respective chains of command.

Civilian activities benefiting both communities, including farming, housing construction and commercial ventures, con-

UNFICYP peacekeepers monitoring the Maritime Security Line. Famagusta, Cyprus, 8 December 2011. (UN Photo/Rastislav Ochotnicky)

UNFICYP peacekeepers speak to a farmer in the Buffer Zone. Troulli, Cyprus, 7 May 2011. (UN Photo/Rastislav Ochotnicky)

tinued steadily. Additionally, UNFICYP routinely helped to provide basic services and maintenance of essential infrastructure, such as roads, waterways and electricity supply.

Serving the population

Continuing to address the day-to-day issues of the people, the mission has encouraged both communities to develop a long-term care plan for their aging populations. On a weekly basis, it delivers humanitarian assistance to 351 Greek Cypriots and 126 Maronites residing in the north, also assisting in their health care. Additionally, UNFICYP facilitates the delivery of school textbooks and appointment of teachers for Greek Cypriot schools in the Karpas peninsula.

For Turkish Cypriots living in the south, UNFICYP assisted local authorities and community representatives to provide welfare services, including housing, social support and medical care for those in need. The mission also monitored and liaised with local educational authorities to meet the needs of Turkish Cypriots residing in the Limassol-Paphos area.

Despite a limited number of personnel, UNFICYP police continued to escort regular convoys of Turkish Cypriot civilians and humanitarian supplies through the buffer zone to Kokkina/Erenköy, as part of the 2010 agreement reached between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders.

Facilitating negotiations

In addition to its peacekeeping role, UNFICYP provides substantive and logistical assistance to negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders. It has facilitated meetings of bicommunal technical committees, working groups and other expert groups discussing matters of common concern. To this end, UNFICYP designated political and civil affairs staff to act as facilitators.

In May, the Home for Cooperation (H4C) in the UN-patrolled buffer zone in Nicosia opened its doors to researchers, educators, historians, artists and others from both communities, providing a space to exchange ideas, share knowledge and discuss issues of common concern. Lisa M. Buttenheim, who serves both as UNFICYP Chief and Deputy Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for the Cyprus peace talks, said the H4C "will help Cypriots develop different perspectives, which is an essential element of a lasting peace and stability in Cyprus".

UNMIK

A new, multi-ethnic government in place

The United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) began its 12th year marked by a series of political crises in Kosovo, following the elections held at the end of 2010. Due to voting irregularities, elections were repeated in six of Kosovo's 36 municipalities.

By the end of February 2011, a new, multi-ethnic Government was formed, led by a coalition between two Kosovo Albanian parties, the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) and the New Kosovo Alliance (AKR). The Government has 19 ministers, three of whom are Kosovo Serbs. Additionally, the deputy ministers include three Serbs and eight from "Other Communities".

In March, President Behgjet Pacolli's Assembly election was deemed unconstitutional by domestic mechanisms, forcing him to step down. Following a United States-brokered compromise between the Government and the opposition, Ms. Artifete Jahjaga was elected as the new President and two ad hoc Committees—composed of representatives from all Assembly caucuses—commenced working on an agreed electoral reform.

March also saw the start of the dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade, welcomed by General Assembly resolution 298 (A/RES/64/298) in September 2010 and facilitated by the European Union (EU). The aim of the dialogue is to promote cooperation, achieve progress on the path to the EU and improve the lives of people in the region.

Northern Kosovo

The second part of the year was overshadowed by developments in northern Kosovo. In July, the Kosovo authorities attempted to deploy special police units to the two authorized crossings in northern Kosovo (gates 1 and 31), claiming to enforce an embargo against Serbian imports—as a 'reciprocal measure', given that Serbia had not admitted goods originating in Kosovo since 2008—and to establish the rule of law.

The attempt was not coordinated with the international presence on the ground. Reacting to Pristina's actions, northern Kosovo Serbs erected roadblocks along the routes leading to the gates, and on all other major roads in the north, halting freedom of movement in the area. Serb demonstrators torched facilities at gate 1.

In early August, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) Commander mediated a "common understanding" between Belgrade and Pristina and took control of the two authorized border crossings, easing tensions. At a dialogue session in Brussels in early September, Serbia agreed to recognize Kosovo customs stamps,

UNMIK peacekeepers inspecting bypass roads in northern Kosovo. Kosovo, 15 October 2011. (UN Photo/Olivier Salgado)

One of many roadblocks erected by Kosovo Serbs along major roads in the north of Kosovo. Kosovo, 5 October 2011. (UN Photo/Olivier Salgado)

thereby enabling the resumption of mutual trade flows.

Thereafter, the Kosovo authorities announced that they would establish full customs controls at the authorized crossings. However, the local Kosovo Serbs pledged to resist this move, perceived as an attempt by Pristina to extend its authority in northern Kosovo.

When, in mid-September, Pristina, together with KFOR and the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX), established an observer presence at the gates, northern Kosovo Serbs reacted again with roadblocks and constructed bypass roads, enabling free transportation to and from central Serbia. Throughout the autumn, KFOR skirmished with local Kosovo Serb protesters while trying to guarantee free movement for itself and EULEX.

These events contributed to a deterioration in security and a polarization between the Kosovo Serb community and the Pristina institutions. The IBM Agreed Conclusions, an agreement reached in Brussels on 2 December between Pristina and Belgrade on the integrated management of the crossings, is expected to provide a way forward for the impasse at the gates, leading to a de-escalation of tensions.

A considerable presence

Throughout 2011, UNMIK continued to promote security, stability and respect for human rights by engaging with all communities, the authorities in Pristina and Belgrade and regional and international actors. Operating under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), UNMIK continued to implement its mandate in a status-neutral manner alongside EULEX, which, deployed in Kosovo since 2008, is under the United Nations' overall authority.

Following the developments in northern Kosovo, UNMIK actively urged all parties at different levels to exercise restraint and take necessary measures to prevent any further violence. It emphasized the importance of dialogue to find viable solutions to disputes and outstanding issues. UNMIK acted as an impartial mediator and was perceived as such by all stakeholders. UNMIK facilitated the establishment of weekly coordination meetings with northern Kosovo Serb representatives, KFOR, EULEX and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Another key aspect of UNMIK's work in 2011 was continuing to facilitate participation by the Kosovo authorities in regional multilateral mechanisms. Although the Kosovo authorities utilize the mission's facilitating role on a case-by-case basis, overall, the value of a pragmatic approach has been noted. Hence, UNMIK continues to provide assistance and to propose practical ways to overcome political obstacles.

As of 1 December 2011, 85 of the 193 United Nations Member States had recognized Kosovo as an independent State.

UN peacekeeping operations: breakdown by categories of staff

(as of 31 December 2011)

Uniformed personnel	**98,639**	**82.6%**
Troops	82,377	69.0%
Police	14,300	12.0%
Military observers	1,962	1.6%
Civilian personnel	**18,362***	**15.4%**
International civilian personnel	5,553*	4.7%
Local civilian personnel	12,809*	10.7%
UN Volunteers	**2,347**	**2.0%**

Total number of personnel serving in 15 peacekeeping operations as of 31 December 2011: 119,348

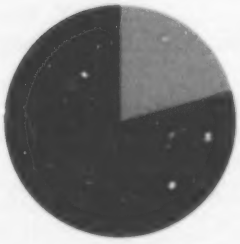
*Civilian figures valid as of 31 October 2011.

Gender statistics: ratio of women in UN peacekeeping operations

Civilian staff (as of 31 October 2011)

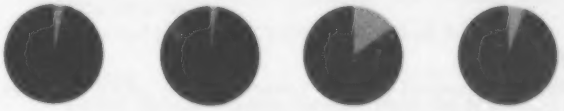
International staff 29.5%

Local staff 17.4%



Total female civilian staff – 21.0%

Uniformed personnel (as of 31 December 2011)



Military experts 3.7%

Troops 2.7%

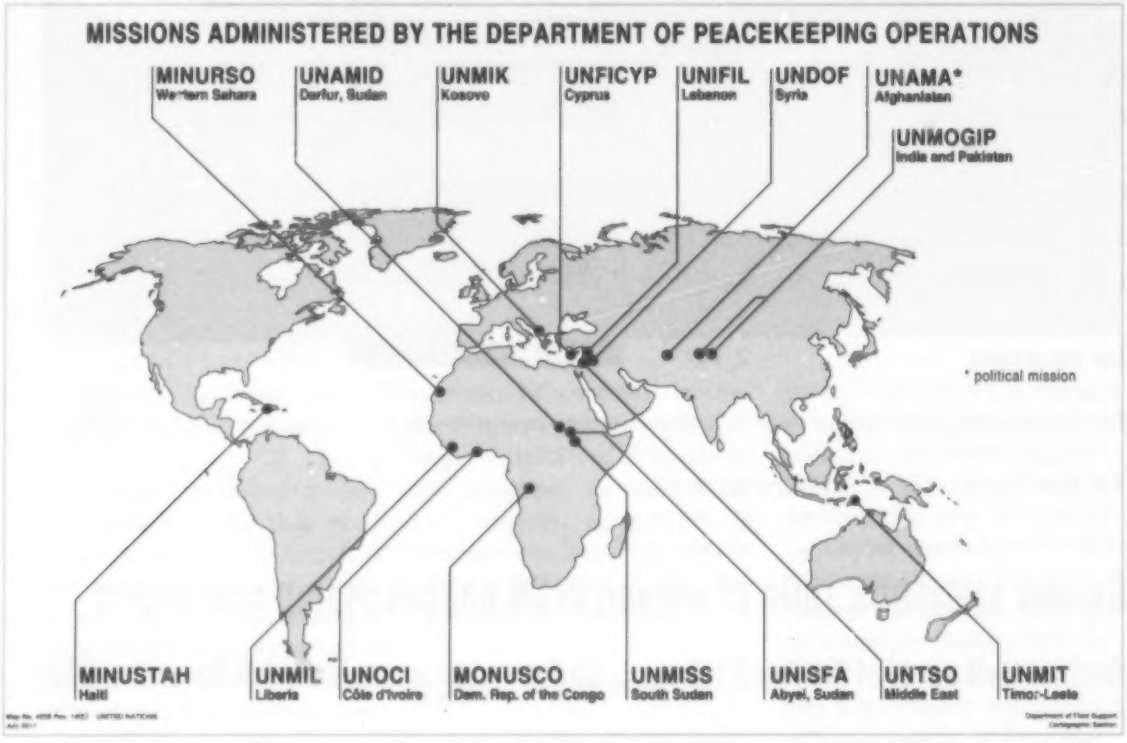
Individual police 15.3%

Formed Police Units 6.0%

Total female uniformed personnel – 3.8%

As of 31 December 2011

Peacekeeping operations since 1948.....66
Current peacekeeping operations.....15
Current peace operations directed and supported by the Dept. of Peacekeeping Operations 16



PERSONNEL

Uniformed personnel (82,377 troops, 14,300 police and 1,962 military observers) .....98,639 *
Countries contributing uniformed personnel 114
International civilian personnel (31 October 2011).....5,553 *
Local civilian personnel (31 October 2011).....12,809 *
UNV Volunteers.....2,347 *
Total number of personnel serving in 15 peacekeeping operations 119,348
Total number of personnel serving in 16 DPKO-led peace operations .....121,591 **
Total number of fatalities in peace operations since 1948 .....2,966 ***

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Approved resources for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.....About US$7.84 billion
Estimated total cost of operations from 1948 to 30 June 2010.....About US$69 billion
Outstanding contributions to peacekeeping.....About US$2.63 billion

* Numbers include 15 peacekeeping operations only. Statistics for UNAMA, a special political mission directed and supported by DPKO, can be found at http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/ppbm.pdf

** This figure includes the total number of uniformed and civilian personnel serving in 15 peacekeeping operations and one DPKO-led special political mission – UNAMA

*** Includes fatalities for all UN peace operations

UNTSO Since May 1948
United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
Strength: military observer 150; international civilian 101; local civilian 132; total personnel 383
Fatalities: 50
Appropriation 2010-11: $60.70 million

UNMOGIP Since January 1949
United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
Strength: military observer 39; international civilian 25; local civilian 51; total personnel 115
Fatalities: 11
Appropriation 2010-11: $16.15 million

UNFICYP Since March 1964
United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
Strength: troop 872; police 69; international civilian 38; local civilian 112; total personnel 1,091
Fatalities: 180
Approved budget 07/11-06/12: $58.20million

UNDOF Since June 1974
United Nations Disengagement Observer Force
Strength: troop 1,043; international civilian 41; local civilian 103; total personnel 1,187
Fatalities: 43
Approved budget 07/11-06/12: $50.53 million

UNIFIL Since March 1978
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
Strength: troop 12,017 international civilian 353; local civilian 666; total personnel 13,036
Fatalities: 293
Approved budget 07/11-06/12: $545.47 million

MINURSO Since April 1991
United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
Strength: military observer 195; troop 27; police 6; international civilian 102; local civilian 165; UN volunteer 19; total personnel 514
Fatalities: 15
Approved budget 07/11-06/12: $63.22 million

UNMIK Since June 1999
United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
Strength: military observer 9; police 7; international civilian 150; local civilian 215; UN volunteer 26; total personnel 407
Fatalities: 54
Approved budget 07/11-06/12: $44.91 million

MONUSCO Since July 2010
United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
Strength: military observer 703; troop 16,854; police 1,371; international civilian 976; local civilian 2,865; UN volunteer 614; total personnel 23,383
Fatalities: 33
Approved budget 07/11-06/12: $1,489.39 million

UNMIL Since September 2003
United Nations Mission in Liberia
Strength: military observer 131; troop 7,778; police 1,297; international civilian 477; local civilian 991; UN volunteer 255; total personnel 10,929
Fatalities: 164
Approved budget 07/11-06/12: $525.61 million

UNOCI Since April 2004
United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
Strength: military observer 197; troop 9,416; police 1,386; international civilian 397 ; local civilian 743; UN volunteer 276; total personnel 12,415
Fatalities: 89
Approved budget 07/11-06/12: $645.96 million

MINUSTAH Since June 2004
United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
Strength: troop 8,065; police 3,546; international civilian 568; local civilian 1,355; UN volunteer 236; total personnel 13,770
Fatalities: 168
Commitment authority 07/11-06/12: $793.52 million

UNMIT Since August 2006
United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste
Strength: military observer 33; police 1,183; international civilian 394; local civilian 883; UN volunteer 211; total personnel 2,704
Fatalities: 12
Approved budget 07/11-06/12 $196.08 million

UNAMID Since July 2007
African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
Strength: military observer 262; troop 17,778; police 4,950; international civilian 1,124; local civilian 2,904; UN volunteer 483; total personnel 27,501
Fatalities: 104
Approved budget 07/11-06/12 $1,689.31 million

UNISFA Since June 2011
United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei
Strength: military observer 74; troop 3,724; international civilian 20; local civilian N/A; total personnel 3,818
Fatalities: 5
Commitment authority 07/11-06/12 $175.50 million

UNMISS Since July 2011
United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan
Strength: military observer 169; troop 4,803; police 485; international civilian 697; local civilian 1,117; UN volunteer 226; total personnel 7,497
Fatalities: 1
Approved budget 07/11-06/12: $722.13 million

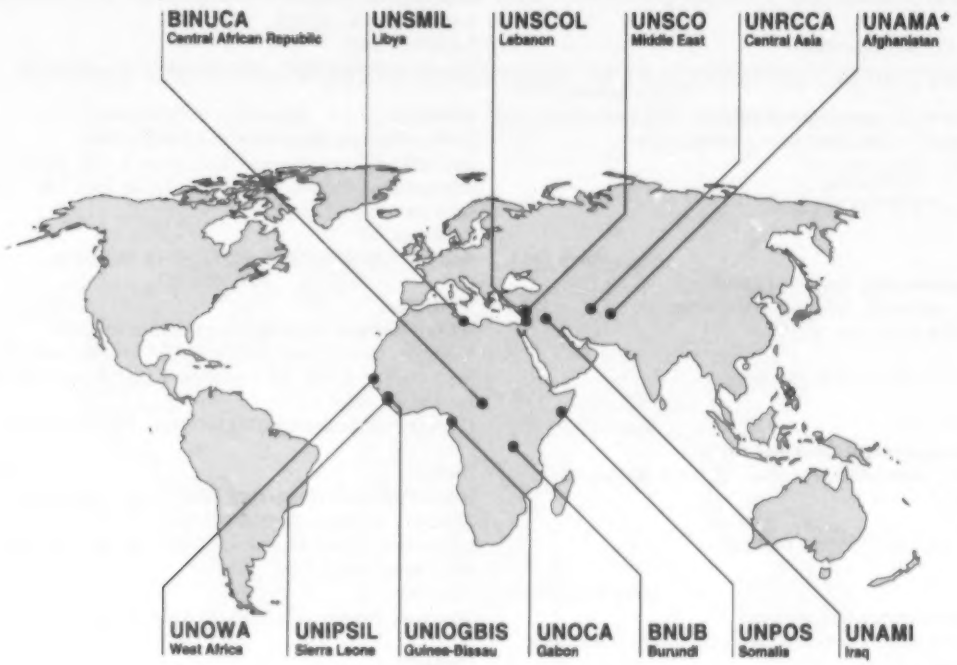
Mission ended in 2011:

UNMIS 24 March 2005 – 9 July 2011
United Nations Mission in Sudan

UNTSO and UNMOGIP are funded from the United Nations regular biennial budget. Costs to the United Nations of the other current operations are financed from their own separate accounts on the basis of legally binding assessments on all Member States. For these missions, budget figures are for one year (07/11--06/12) unless otherwise specified. For information on United Nations political missions, see DPI/2166/Rev.102 also available on the web at http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/pgbm.pdf

As of 31 December 2011

ONGOING POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING MISSIONS



Map No. 4147 Rev. 37(E) UNITED NATIONS
October 2011

* Mission directed and supported by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations

Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section

NUMBER OF MISSIONS 13

PERSONNEL

Uniformed personnel	386
International civilian personnel (31 October 2011)	1,184
Local civilian personnel (31 October 2011)	2,612
UNV Volunteers	102
Total number of personnel serving in political and peacebuilding missions	4,284

For information on United Nations peacekeeping operations, see DPI/1634 Rev.128 or visit the United Nations website at http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/bnote010101.pdf

UNPOS Since 15 April 1995
United Nations Political Office for Somalia
Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Augustine Mahiga (Tanzania)
Strength: international civilian 57; local civilian 30, military advisers 3, police 0

UNSCO Since 1 October 1999
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East
Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority: Robert H. Serry (Netherlands)
Strength: international civilian 33; local civilian 29

UNOWA Since 29 November 2001
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa
Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Said Djinnit (Algeria)
Strength: international civilian 19; local civilian 16; military advisers 3

UNAMA* Since 28 March 2002
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Staffan de Mistura (Sweden)
Strength: international civilian 421; local civilian 1,730; military advisers 13; police 2; UNV volunteer 77

UNAMI Since 14 August 2003
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq: Martin Kobler (Germany)
Strength (staff based in Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait): international civilian 391; local civilian 502; troop 353 ; military advisers 8; police 4

UNSCOL Since 16 February 2007
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon
Special Coordinator for Lebanon: Derek Plumbly (United Kingdom)
Strength: international civilian 19; local civilian 59

UNRCCA Since 10 December 2007
United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Miroslav Jenča (Slovakia)
Strength: international civilian 8; local civilian 21

UNIPSIL Since 1 October 2008
United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone
Executive Representative of the Secretary-General: Michael von der Schulenburg (Germany)
Strength: international civilian 37; local civilian 29; UNV volunteer 7; police 5

BINUCA Since 1 January 2010
United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic
Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Margaret Vogt (Nigeria)
Strength: international civilian 66; local civilian 75; military advisers 2; UNV volunteer 6; police 2

UNIOGBIS Since 1 January 2010
United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau
Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Joseph Mutaboba (Rwanda)
Strength: international civilian 55; local civilian 51; military advisers 2; police 14; UNV volunteer 6

BNUB Since 1 January 2011
United Nations Office in Burundi
Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Karin Landgren (Sweden)
Strength: international civilian 50; local civilian 65; military advisers 1; police 1; UNV volunteer 6

UNOCA Since 1 January 2011
United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa
Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Abou Moussa (Chad)
Strength: international civilian 14; local civilian 5; military advisers 1

UNSMIL Since 16 September 2011
United Nations Support Mission in Libya
Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Ian Martin (United Kingdom)
Strength: International civilian 14; local N/A; police 1

Mission ended in 2011:

UNMIN 23 January 2007 – 15 January 2011
United Nations Mission in Nepal

* Political or peacebuilding mission directed and supported by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. All other political and peacebuilding missions are directed by the Department of Political Affairs. For information on political and peacebuilding missions, visit the United Nations website at http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/

Acronym	Mission name	Start Date	End Date
UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization	May 1948	Present
UNMOGIP	United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan	January 1949	Present
UNEF I	First United Nations Emergency Force	November 1956	June 1967
UNOGIL	United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon	June 1958	December 1958
ONUC	United Nations Operation in the Congo	July 1960	June 1964
UNSF	United Nations Security Force in West New Guinea	October 1962	April 1963
UNYOM	United Nations Yemen Observation Mission	July 1963	September 1964
UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus	March 1964	Present
DOMREP	Mission of the Representative of the Secretary-General in the Dominican Republic	May 1965	October 1966
UNIPOM	United Nations India-Pakistan Observation Mission	September 1965	March 1966
UNEF II	Second United Nations Emergency Force	October 1973	July 1979
UNDOF	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force	June 1974	Present
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon	March 1978	Present
UNGOMAP	United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan	May 1988	March 1990
UNIIMOG	United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group	August 1988	February 1991
UNAVEM I	United Nations Angola Verification Mission I	January 1989	June 1991
UNTAG	United Nations Transition Assistance Group	April 1989	March 1990
ONUCA	United Nations Observer Group in Central America	November 1989	January 1992
UNIKOM	United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission	April 1991	October 2003
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara	April 1991	present
UNAVEM II	United Nations Angola Verification Mission II	June 1991	February 1995
ONUSAL	United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador	July 1991	April 1995
UNAMIC	United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia	October 1991	March 1992
UNPROFOR	United Nations Protection Force	February 1992	March 1995
UNTAC	United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia	March 1992	September 1993
UNOSOM I	United Nations Operation in Somalia I	April 1992	March 1993
ONUMOZ	United Nations Operation in Mozambique	December 1992	December 1994
UNOSOM II	United Nations Operation in Somalia II	March 1993	March 1995
UNOMUR	United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda	June 1993	September 1994
UNOMIG	United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia	August 1993	June 2009
UNOMIL	United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia	September 1993	September 1997
UNMIH	United Nations Mission in Haiti	September 1993	June 1996
UNAMIR	United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda	October 1993	March 1996
UNASOG	United Nations Aouzou Strip Observer Group	May 1994	June 1994

Acronym	Mission name	Start Date	End Date
UNMOT	United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan	December 1994	May 2000
UNAVEM III	United Nations Angola Verification Mission III	February 1995	June 1997
UNCRO	United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia	May 1995	January 1996
UNPREDEP	United Nations Preventive Deployment Force	March 1995	February 1999
UNMIBH	United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina	December 1995	December 2002
UNTAES	United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium	January 1996	January 1998
UNMOP	United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka	January 1996	December 2002
UNSMIH	United Nations Support Mission in Haiti	July 1996	July 1997
MINUGUA	United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala	January 1997	May 1997
MONUA	United Nations Observer Mission in Angola	June 1997	February 1999
UNTMIH	United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti	August 1997	December 1997
MIPONUH	United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti	December 1997	March 2000
	UN Civilian Police Support Group	January 1998	October 1998
MINURCA	United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic	April 1998	February 2000
UNOMSIL	United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone	July 1998	October 1999
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo	June 1999	Present
UNAMSIL	United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone	October 1999	December 2005
UNTAET	United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor	October 1999	May 2002
MONUC	United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	November 1999	June 2010
UNMEE	United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea	July 2000	July 2008
UNMISET	United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor	May 2002	May 2005
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia	September 2003	Present
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire	April 2004	Present
MINUSTAH	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti	June 2004	Present
ONUB	United Nations Operation in Burundi	June 2004	December 2006
UNMIS	United Nations Mission in the Sudan	March 2005	July 2011
UNMIT	United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste	August 2006	Present
UNAMID	African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur	July 2007	Present
MINURCAT	United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad	September 2007	December 2010
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	July 2010	Present
UNISFA	United Nations Organization Interim Security Force for Abyei	June 2011	Present
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan	July 2011	Present

PEACEKEEPING CONTRIBUTORS (Police, Military Experts on Mission and Troops as of 31 December 2011)*

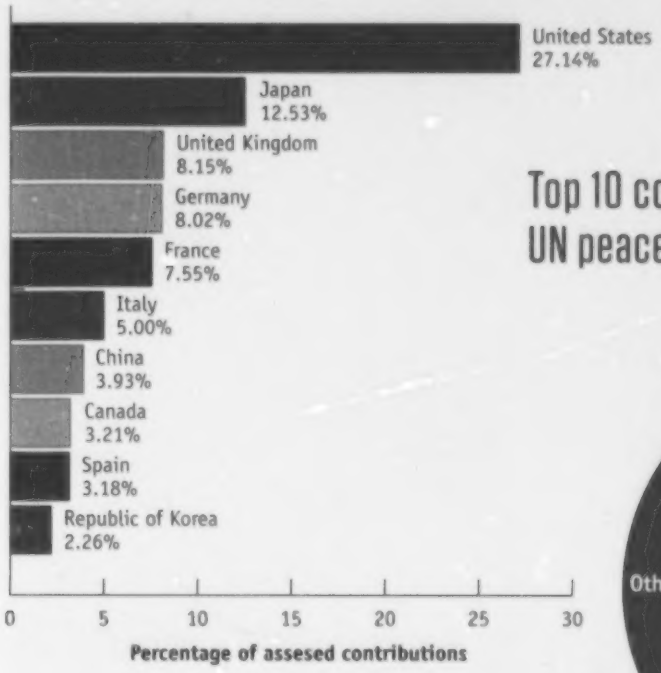
No.	Country	Police	MEM	Troops	Total
1	Argentina	31	6	1,002	1,039
2	Australia	73	22	9	104
3	Austria		9	536	545
4	Bangladesh	2,084	77	8,233	10,394
5	Belarus			3	3
6	Belgium	1	6	123	130
7	Benin	113	25	883	1,021
8	Bolivia		13	209	222
9	Bosnia and Herzegovina	25	5		30
10	Brazil	18	29	2,446	2,493
11	Brunei			30	30
12	Bulgaria		2		2
13	Burkina Faso	246	17	801	1,064
14	Burundi	85	2		87
15	Cambodia		2	220	222
16	Cameroon	116	8		124
17	Canada	152	21	17	190
18	Central African Republic	40			40
19	Chad	68	3	1	72
20	Chile	14	4	520	538
21	China	71	40	1,813	1,924
22	Colombia	35			35
23	Cote d'Ivoire	153			153
24	Croatia	12	16	100	128
25	Cyprus			2	2
26	Czech Republic	5	5		10
27	Denmark		19	2	21
28	Djibouti	36	2		38
29	DR Congo	30			30
30	Ecuador		11	68	79
31	Egypt	430	80	3,573	4,083
32	El Salvador	34	10	52	96
33	Estonia		2		2
34	Ethiopia	9	99	6,116	6,224
35	Fiji	49	6	320	375
36	Finland		19	2	21
37	France	53	21	1,317	1,391
38	Gambia	210	5	199	414
39	Germany	15	7	236	258
40	Ghana	346	52	2,591	2,989
41	Greece			50	50
42	Grenada	2			2
43	Guatemala		20	292	312
44	Guinea	47	6		53
45	Honduras		12		12
46	Hungary		7	81	88
47	India	1,039	79	6,997	8,115
48	Indonesia	155	26	1,800	1,981
49	Iran		2		2
50	Ireland	18	20	455	493
51	Italy	5	17	1,086	1,108
52	Jamaica	19			19
53	Japan		2	258	260
54	Jordan	1,976	49	2,038	4,063
55	Kenya	30	31	773	834
56	Kyrgyzstan	15	5		20
57	Lithuania	2			2
58	Macedonia, FYROM			1	1
59	Madagascar	57			57
60	Malawi	2	25	856	883
61	Malaysia	251	40	896	1,187
62	Mali	84	31		115
63	Moldova		8		8
64	Mongolia		8	70	78
65	Montenegro	4	2		6
66	Morocco		5	1,574	1,579
67	Mozambique		1		1
68	Namibia	58	14	5	77
69	Nepal	735	53	2,809	3,597
70	Netherlands	1	12	1	14
71	New Zealand	5	13	1	19
72	Niger	186	25	934	1,145
73	Nigeria	726	75	4,948	5,749
74	Norway	23	22	5	50
75	Pakistan	875	93	8,448	9,416
76	Palau	1			1
77	Papua New Guinea		1		1
78	Paraguay		29	179	208
79	Peru		14	373	387
80	Phillipines	273	14	621	908
81	Poland	3	14		17
82	Portugal	184	5	143	332
83	Qatar			3	3
84	Republic of Korea	4	17	613	634
85	Romania	31	34		65
86	Russia	17	68	125	210
87	Rwanda	418	13	3,234	3,665
88	Samoa	5			5
89	Senegal	743	45	1,551	2,339
90	Serbia	10	9	61	80
91	Sierra Leone	259	10	139	408
92	Singapore	10	2		12
93	Slovakia		3	159	162
94	Slovenia		3	14	17
95	South Africa	58	20	1,989	2,067
96	Spain	31	2	1,069	1,102
97	Sri Lanka	86	11	1,111	1,208
98	Sweden	30	21	1	52
99	Switzerland	4	16	2	22
100	Tajikistan	11			11
101	Tanzania	131	17	1,047	1,195
102	Thailand	20	10	822	852
103	Timor - Leste		1		1
104	Togo	148	17	526	691
105	Tunisia		38	2	40
106	Turkey	152	1	352	505
107	Uganda	30	6	1	37
108	Ukraine	72	23	277	372
109	United Kingdom		5	274	279
110	United States of America	106	7	13	126
111	Uruguay	12	50	2,208	2,270
112	Yemen	239	55	9	303
113	Zambia	263	44	9	316
114	Zimbabwe	83	9	2	94

	POLICE	MEM	TROOP
Totals	14,303	1,984	82,729

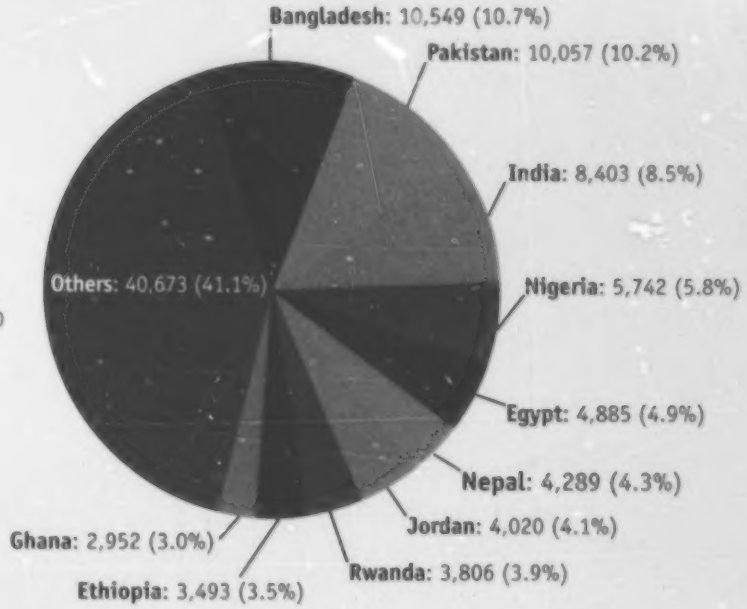
Grand total in PKO **99,016**

*Including uniformed personnel in UN political missions in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Burundi (BNUB) and Iraq (UNAMI).

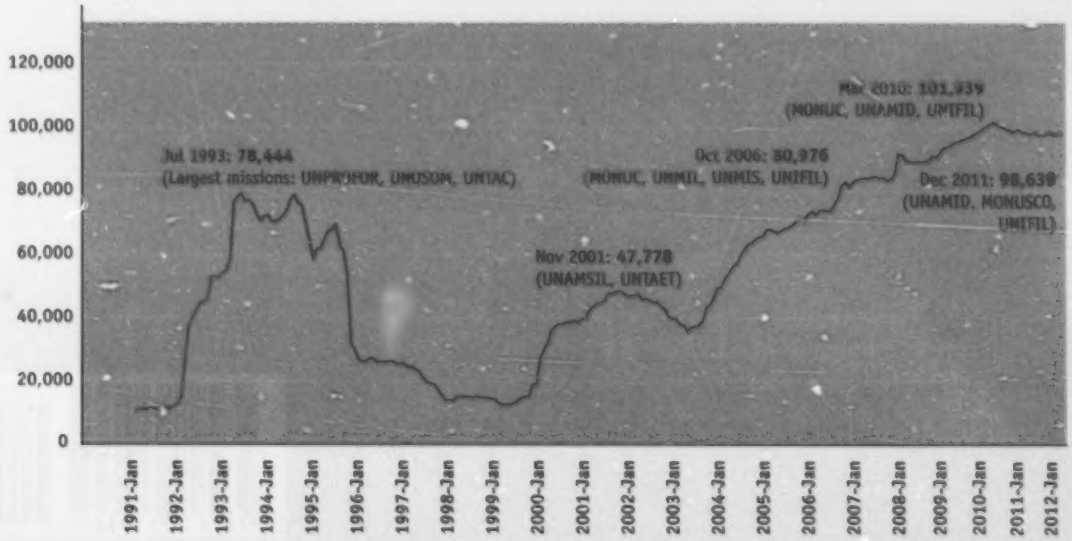
Top 10 providers of assessed financial contributions to UN peacekeeping operations (2010–2012)



Top 10 contributors of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping operations (2011 averages)



Surge in uniformed UN peacekeeping personnel from 1991 to 2011



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